

## ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**SEPTEMBER 2023**



### **Director's Comments:**

On October 12th, AUCA will hold our Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot at Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club in Montgomery. We are pleased to have Coach Jack Crowe as our special guest speaker. We are expecting a tremendous turnout, and most of our shooting team slots have been reserved. If you plan to participate, and have not already sent in your registration form, please do so immediately in order to guarantee your space.

For those not shooting, you are still welcome to attend the General Meeting Lunch. In addition to hearing from Coach Crowe, we will also vote on our slate of candidates for the 2024 AUCA Board of Directors, as well as present awards and give away prizes. Additionally, we will have our annual PAC Raffle drawing. Please be on the lookout for the tickets that have been mailed, and consider purchasing them to help support our continued legislative efforts.

Speaking of legislative matters, the past month has seen quite a bit of headlines on this topic in Alabama. A Special Master appointed by a three-judge federal court has proposed new congressional redistricting maps after finding the Alabama Legislature's maps likely violate the Voting Rights Act. Also, a 20-member Legislative Council voted unanimously to sign a contract with the Retirement Systems of Alabama on the construction of a new State House.

Unfortunately, two more State Representatives have run afoul of the law. Representative David Cole (R) from Madison has resigned following his arrest for felony voter fraud, and longtime Representative John Rogers (D) from Birmingham has been indicted on federal charges of obstruction and bribery. Construction is currently underway for a new State Prison in Elmore County. At this point, it might be wise to just consider combining the proposed new State House with the Prison, since sadly that's where so many of our lawmakers seem to end up going.

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*Tim*

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

## **Currently Registered Event Sponsors:**

*(Additional sponsorship opportunities available - deadline is October 5th)*

### **Gold Sponsors (to Date):**



# AUCA Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

## Silver Sponsors (to Date):



## Bronze Sponsor (to Date):



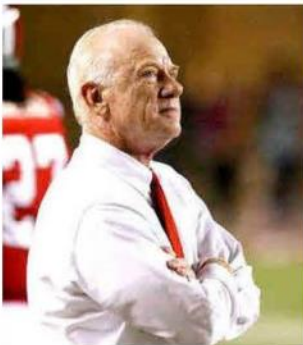


## AUCA 2023 Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

**Thursday, October 12, 2023**

**Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club  
4758 Lower Wetumpka Road Montgomery, AL 36110**

**Morning Sporting Clay Shoot - 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start**  
**General Meeting & Steak Lunch - 11:00 a.m.**  
**Door Prizes & Raffle Drawing - 12:30 p.m.**  
**Afternoon Sporting Clay Shoot - 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start**



### General Meeting & Steak Lunch Guest Speaker - Coach Jack Crowe

*(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 2024 AUCA Officers and Board of Directors, and present the AUCA "Member of the Year" Awards.

### Annual Sporting Clay Shoot

*(Participants must provide their 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 again 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 12, 2023 - 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 5, 2023

Company Name:
Address:
City: State: Zip:
Contact Person:
Phone Number:
Email:

SPORTING CLAY SHOOT TEAM & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- GOLD TEAM SPONSOR - \$1,000 Includes: 4-man team, cart, lunch, company logo on AUCA website w/ link to sponsor's website, event signage, promotional materials, & four (4) station sponsorship
SILVER TEAM SPONSOR - \$750 Includes: 4-man team, cart, lunch, name recognition on AUCA website, event signage, promotional materials, & one (1) station sponsorship
4-PERSON TEAM - \$600 Includes: 4-man team, cart, lunch
BRONZE EVENT SPONSOR - \$250 Includes: Admission for two (2) company representatives to attend General Meeting Lunch, name recognition on AUCA website, event signage, one (1) station sponsorship, and may provide trappers on course to network with shooters and hand out company prizes or give-a-ways

TEAM MEMBERS:

1.)
2.)
3.)
4.)

MORNING SHOOT:
AFTERNOON SHOOT:
CART NEEDED: YES NO

4-person golf carts provided for all teams (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 required

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 2024 LEADERSHIP TEAM***

To Be Voted On At General Meeting Scheduled For October 12, 2023

***OFFICERS***

**PRESIDENT:** JAY HOLCOMB, LAMBERT, INC.

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT:** RONNIE GOLDEN, CG JONES, LLC

**2ND VICE PRESIDENT:** GAVIN JONES, BAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS, INC.

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

***BOARD MEMBERS***

RANDY BISHOP, CONSTRUCTION LABOR SERVICES, INC.

DOUG BLANKENSHIP, BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING, INC. \*

ANDRU BRAMBLETT, AFL

BILL CARTER, BILL CARTER CONSULTING, LLC

TIM GILLIAM, JOHN PLOTT COMPANY

SHAUN GONZALES, WEAVER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMPANY, INC.

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

MARK MAYFIELD, MILLER PIPELINE, LLC

RYAN McCLENDON, MARSHMcLENNAN AGENCY

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

RICHARD MURPHREE, EMPIRE PIPE & SUPPLY

AARON SCHMIDT, SCHMIDT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRUCTION, INC.

CHARLES SMITH, VULCAN MATERIALS COMPANY

CHAD TUBBS, FERGUSON WATERWORKS

STEVE WALKER, JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.

*\*IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT*



## News & Notes:

### **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 continued Legislative efforts in Montgomery and Washington. This year we will once again be raffling two great prizes that anyone can use - CASH:

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

Tickets will be \$10 each, and will allow the purchaser two (2) chances to win. The drawing will be held at our October 12th Fall General Meeting / Sporting Clay Shoot in Montgomery. You do not have to be present at the event to win.

We hope that you will consider purchasing these tickets for yourself, or provide the opportunity to your employees or co-workers. If you would like to purchase any additional tickets, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

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### **Skills for Success Courses Approved for High School Career Readiness Indicators:**

Alabama high school students can sign up for Skills for Success courses across multiple career paths, including fiber optics technician and installer training; hotel operations; bulldozer, skid steer, or asphalt roller training; and multiple CDL courses. While students as young as age 14 are eligible for food and beverage Skills for Success courses, all other courses require that a student be age 16 and older. Students must be age 18 and older for CDL training.

Each of the Skills for Success courses meets standards for the Alabama State Department of Education's career readiness indicators, which will serve as a graduation requirement in the state by 2026.

Skills for Success courses are developed by the Alabama Community College System Innovation Center alongside business and industry partners. The courses are provided at no cost to the participant, thanks to the support of the Alabama Legislature to address skills gaps in the state.

The courses are offered in two parts in generally less than a months' time: a self-paced, interactive theory portion that covers industry standards and best practices, and then a hands-on, in-person training lab with qualified instructors at any of the state's 24 community and technical colleges.

Residents interested in learning more about Skills for Success courses can contact their local high school guidance counselor or career coach. High schools interested in learning more about the training can visit [innovation.accs.edu](http://innovation.accs.edu)



News & Notes:

**Alabama Underground Damage Prevention Authority (ALUDPA)**

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.

A GUIDE TO ALABAMA'S

# Enforcement Process

HOW TO SUBMIT AND RESPOND TO COMPLAINTS  
AT WWW.ALUDPA.ORG

| STEP 1   | STEP 2  | STEP 3   | STEP 4   | STEP 5   |
|--|---|--|--|--|
|  |   |  |  |  |
| Report any violations within 30 days of incident. Can be reported for info only or enforcement purposes. | Alleged violator will be notified with time/date/location of incident. Alleged violator has 14 days to respond. | Exec. Committee reviews the complaint/response. Then makes a recommendation. | Exec. Committee notifies the alleged violator and complainant of any penalty action recommended. | Alleged violator can accept and pay the penalty, or submit an appeal to be heard by entire Damage Prevention Authority |

*Upcoming Meetings & Events:*



***AUCA 2023 Fall General Meeting  
& Sporting Clay Shoot***

**Thursday, October 12, 2023  
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club  
Montgomery, AL**



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***NACC Heavy Equipment Operator Training***  
**October 2-6 and October 16-20, 2023**

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***AUCA Board of Directors Meeting***  
**Thursday, December 7, 2023**

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***AUCA 2024 Spring General Meeting,  
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil***  
**Thursday, April 18, 2024  
Arrowhead Country Club  
Montgomery, AL**

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***AUCA Industry Lunch Meetings***  
**Dates and Locations To Be Announced**

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***OSHA Competent Person Training Class***  
**Date and Location To Be Announced**



NORTHEAST ALABAMA COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

# HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Course Details:

Registration Fee: \$25.00

Oct. 2 - Oct. 6:

- On-site at NACC
- 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 16 - Oct. 20:

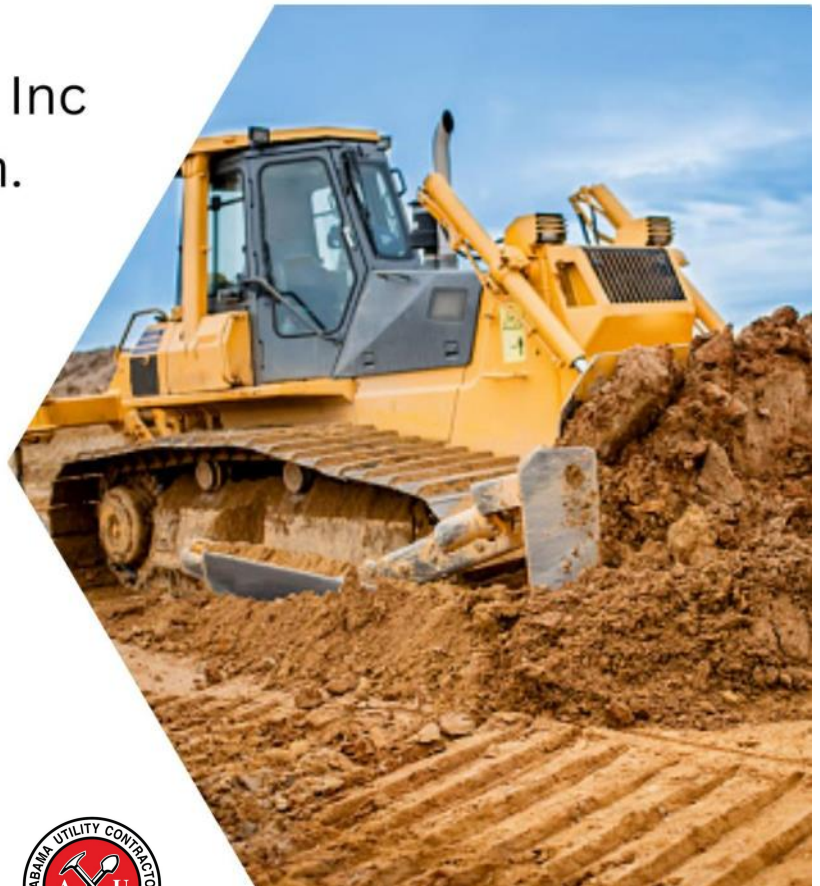
- On-site at Lambert, Inc
- 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



[ledbetterm@nacc.edu](mailto:ledbetterm@nacc.edu)

256.638.4418 ext. 2361

**REGISTER  
NOW**



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

From Ryan Sharpe - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

### **September 2023 Insights**

NOTE: Congress is in recess until after Labor Day. However, there are on-going discussions/negotiations between House and Senate staff on the appropriations bills. At this time, it is unclear whether each House will take up its bill after the recess and then look to conference to resolve differences or try to reach agreement during the recess on final versions that would be passed by both Houses, without the need for conferences, when Congress returns. In either case, while Coalition members were encouraged to send support letters during the markup process, given where things stand now, a Coalition position letter was submitted to House Appropriations Full Committee and Interior Subcommittee Democratic leaders and staff, and Senate Appropriations Full Committee and Interior Subcommittee Democratic and Republican leaders and staff.

#### **Clean Water SRF and WIIN Grants: FY24 Appropriations**

Clean Water SRF – the House Interior Appropriations bill provides \$1.005B (a general fund base allotment of \$535M plus \$470M for earmarks). The Senate Interior Appropriations bill provides \$1.639B (a general fund base allotment \$1.294B plus \$345M for earmarks). The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), which was not changed by either bill, provides an additional \$2.628B for the CWSRF.

For the CWSRF, the President's FY 24 Budget proposed \$1.639B and rejected earmarks as a takedown from the basic SRF funding. For Title XVI, \$4M, the same as the FY23 Biden Budget.

Safe Drinking Water SRF - the House Interior Appropriations bill provides \$870.6M (a general fund base allotment \$460.6M plus \$410M for earmarks). The Senate Interior Appropriations bill provides \$1.126B (a general fund base allotment of \$882M plus \$244M for earmarks). The BIL, which was not changed by either bill, provides an additional \$3.000B for the SDWSRF.

For the SDWSRF, the President's FY 24 Budget proposed \$1.126B and rejected earmarks as a takedown from the basic SRF funding.

WIFIA - the House Interior Appropriations bill provides \$65.97M. The Senate Interior bill provides \$68M.

WIIN Grants – both the House and Senate Energy and Water Appropriations bills provide \$20M. The BIL provides an additional \$500M over five years, to be allocated annually by the USBR, with an estimated balance at the end of FY23 of @ \$200M.

Coalition members were encouraged, and re-encouraged, to contact their House and Senate Members to oppose the low general fund base allotment level for the SRF's to accommodate related earmark funding and to help reduce overall FY24 spending to FY22 levels, a goal of the House Republicans, and to support SRF funding at the expected FY24 level. Explanatory memos were provided to

*(Continued on page 12)*



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

*(Continued from page 11)*

Coalition members on this issue along with sample House and Senate Member opposition and support letters for their use.

### **FY24 Appropriations Bills: General Status**

To date, of the 12 appropriations bills, 10 have been approved by the House Appropriations Committee, including the Energy and Water and Interior bills. One bill, Military Construction, has passed the full House. In the Senate, all 12 appropriations bills have been approved by the Committee. None have passed the Senate. Given that only one of the 12 bills has passed either House and given that Congress now heads into a month plus recess, a continuing resolution is likely.

### **House Republican 10-Year Balanced Budget**

Likelihood unclear given differences between the Speaker and his Budget Committee chair regarding what cuts would be included in a balanced budget. Initial report was for a ten year 1% annual increase in discretionary spending starting with the FY24 level. Depends upon the outcome of the FY24 appropriations process.

### **Earmarks**

The Coalition continues to express concern about the FY24 appropriations process regarding final funding of the SRF's and related earmarks. For FY 22 and 23, earmark funding was a takedown from the SRF base allotments and not from a separate earmark funding account. As a result, the base allotments were adversely impacted. The Coalition's position is that continuance of that approach for FY24 and beyond is a real problem and counter to the goal of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which was to increase SRF spending over and above increases in the traditional appropriations process and not in lieu of reductions by that process.

### **Coalition 2023 WIIN Grant Applications**

Per July 25 USBR communique, they are going through the review and approval of the NOFO now and said its release will likely be by the end of this month, although it may now be sometime in September.

### **Issues/Bills of Interest**

Alternative Water Source Program Funding – authorized at \$125M in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law but not funded. Included the language the Coalition requested that makes USBR recycled water projects that have not received construction funds eligible to apply for AWSP grants. Continue to pursue funding for the Program.

Mega Recycled Water Project Funding – continue to pursue funding for mega recycled water pro



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

*(Continued from page 12)*

jects over and above the \$450M provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

STREAM Act – Senator Feinstein’s office has put out a request for help in getting cosponsors – especially Republicans – to demonstrate support for Floor consideration. We are working on this in coordination with other interested stakeholders. To review, the bill was introduced S.2162 on June 22 by Senator Feinstein with Senators Sinema (I-AZ) and Kelly (D-AZ)) as cosponsors. On July 19, a hearing was held on the bill by the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. On May 24, at the request of staff of Senator Feinstein, the Coalition sent a letter of support for the the bill regarding its plan introduction. The bill is basically the same bill the Senator introduced last Congress and includes the following: \$300M over five years for water recycling, \$750M for surface and groundwater storage and conveyance projects, \$150M for desalination projects, \$100M for projects to provide drinking water for disadvantaged communities, and \$250M for environmental restoration projects.

Napolitano WIIN Grant Reform Bill - her office said that they are monitoring action on the Feinstein bill to decide next steps.

Infrastructure Items - if there is an effort to pursue non-controversial infrastructure items, advocate for programs of interest such as those included in the House-passed “Build Back Better” bill:

- \$30B for Safe Drinking Water SRF lead service line replacement projects;
- \$100M for state public water systems;
- \$700M to reduce lead in school drinking water;
- \$100M for large scale water recycling projects;
- \$1.15B for emergency drought relief;
- \$125M for Alternative Water Source Program grants;
- \$2B for sewer overflow and storm water reuse grants;
- \$4B for reduction of carbon in the surface transportation sector;
- \$4B for affordable and safe transportation access; and,
- \$6B for local surface transportation projects.

No funding for the Clean Water SRF is included in the House BBB. It does include new taxes.



## Health & Safety:

### The Facts About Obtaining an OSHA Card

Many job creators ask their workers to obtain an OSHA card. This often refers to the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration's](#) (OSHA) [Outreach Training Program's](#) 10-hour and 30-hour safety courses. Unfortunately, there has been an increase in fraudulent activity related to these courses over the past several years. Knowing the facts can help workers avoid fraudulent trainers and courses.



**FACT:** Only OSHA-authorized trainers may teach 10- and 30-hour safety courses and issue OSHA student course completion cards.

The 10-hour safety course covers general safety and health hazards for entry-level workers. The 30-hour safety course provides a greater variety of safety subjects and in-depth, industry-specific training and is intended for supervisors and workers with safety and health responsibility. While fraudulent actors may advertise *OSHA 10-hour training*, only OSHA-authorized trainers can issue course completion cards at the end of the training.

**FACT:** OSHA publishes a public [list of authorized trainers](#) to help workers find legitimate training and avoid fraud.

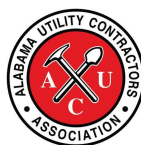
OSHA provides a list of authorized trainers to find instructors for the 10- and 30-hour safety courses. The list provides trainer names and contact information, and denotes which course each trainer is authorized to teach (i.e., construction, general industry, maritime, disaster site worker). Courses are also available [in Spanish](#) and [online](#) from the appropriate authorized trainer.

**FACT:** Taking the course does NOT guarantee employment.

While OSHA believes this training is an important first step towards workplace safety, beware of advertisements "guaranteeing" jobs after taking the course.

**FACT:** OSHA does not require completion of these courses, but may require other training for workers that encounter certain workplace hazards. Although some states, cities, and job creators have mandated Outreach Training Program courses as a prerequisite to employment, OSHA does not require the training. In other cases, jobs may include workplace hazards that require training to meet OSHA standards, such as training on common chemical hazards encountered in the workplace, or operator training for specific powered industrial trucks on the jobsite. Be sure to check your local requirements and consult the relevant OSHA regulations.

Keep these facts in mind when searching for courses and trainers to ensure proper safety training and avoid fraudulent courses. If you come across any fraudulent actors, please contact the [Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General](#). For more information, visit the [Outreach Training Program website](#).



Alabama Utility Contractors Association  
P.O. Box 383185  
Birmingham, AL 35238-3185  
Phone: 205-582-9436  
Fax: 205-582-9155  
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.***

**We're on the Web !  
[www.aluca.org](http://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.**

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Training Needs**

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