Blueprint for Change in Alabama

Everywhere you turn these days county government is facing change. Change is not necessarily a bad thing, but we must discern how these changes will affect us on the local level and put together a plan to move forward. Come to the ACCA’s 84th Annual Convention and we will provide you with the latest information on key issues that will have a significant impact on county budgets and programs for years to come. You will have an opportunity to participate in important dialogue that will help shape key policy. We hope you will listen, learn and be heard!

The Convention is being held August 21-23, 2012 at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Ala.

Gov. Robert Bentley has been invited to address attendees on the status of our state during the Opening General Session on Wednesday, August 22. In addition we will hear from State Treasurer Young Boozer on the Alabama Trust Fund and Bill Kelley, Director of ERS Benefits for RSA on retirement changes. We have also invited Sen. Del Marsh to talk about Efficiency in Government and Bill Taylor, with the Economic Development Partnership will talk about economic development.

On Thursday afternoon, August 23, we will hear from ALDOT Director John Cooper on the status of the ATRIP program.

In addition to these exciting sessions, ACCA staff members are working on the Exhibit Showcase, Golf Tournament, Fishing Expedition, and County Agents Kitchen. Make your plans NOW to attend the convention!

Your first edition of Convention Notes includes registration information, hotel information, and the latest news on the Awards for Excellence. Please note the deadline for early convention registration is Friday, July 27.

Early registration will be $185 (before July 27). Late registration will be $210. Please note the deadline for refunds is August 3. You can register online at www.alabamacounties.org.

The convention will kick off on Tuesday, August 21, with the Exhibit Showcase. The Opening Reception that evening will be held in the Exhibit Hall to give vendors and county officials time to relax and socialize in a more comfortable setting.

(Continued on page 8)
2012 Convention Agenda
ACCA 84th Annual Convention
August 21-23, 2012
Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Ala.

Monday, August 20
1 p.m.
Golf Tournament *(Lunch at Noon)*
Glenlakes Golf Club in Foley, Ala.

1 - 7 p.m.
Fishing Expedition
Reel Surprise Charter Docks

Tuesday, August 21
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Affiliate Meetings
- 9 a.m.
  ACEA Board Meeting
- 10 a.m.
  ACEA Membership Meeting
- 1 p.m.
  ACAA Membership Meeting
- 3 p.m.
  AAND Membership Mtg.
- 4 p.m.
  AAEM Membership Meeting

12 - 1 p.m.
Strolling Lunch in the Exhibit Hall

1 - 5 p.m.
CROAA Education Meeting
- Safety in the Field
- CROAA Business Session

2 - 3 p.m.
ACCA Workers Compensation and Liability Insurance Funds Meeting

5 - 6:30 p.m.
Opening Reception in the Exhibit Hall

Wednesday, August 22
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Convention Breakfast

7:45 - 8:30 a.m.
Nominating Committee Meeting
Resolutions Committee Meeting

8 - 11:30 a.m.
Registration Desk Open

12 - 1:15 p.m.
County Agents Kitchen Lunch

1:30 - 4:45 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions
- Keeping Your Eye on Your County Jail, *Choctaw County Probate Judge D’Wayne May*
- Changes in Alabama’s Sentencing Guidelines
- Immigration Reform Status Report, *Mary Pons, ACCA Association Counsel*
## 2012 Convention Agenda
### ACCA 84th Annual Convention
August 21-23, 2012
Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Ala.

- Alabama Medical Education Consortium, *Dr. Will Baker, Executive Director* and *Mark Culver, Houston County Chairman*
- Future of Local Tax Collection
- Alabama SAF-T-Net Weather Alert Program, *National Weather Service*

### Thursday, August 23
7:45 - 8:45 a.m.
County Agents Kitchen Breakfast

8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Breakout Sessions

#### Commissioners Breakout Session
- Changes in Mental Health
- Logging in Alabama (Combined with Commissioners)
- Erosion Control for Roadway and Bridge Projects, *Skip Powell, ALDOT (Combined with Engineers)*

#### Engineers Breakout Session
- County Transportation Status Report, *Ed Phillips, County Transportation Bureau Chief, ALDOT*
- New Subdivision Law, *Mary Pons, ACCA Association Counsel*
- Creating a County Strategic Plan, *Mark Pool, Houston County Engineer*

#### Administrators Breakout Session
- Excess Money in Tax Sales, *Mary Pons, ACCA Association Counsel*
- Funding Crisis in Juvenile Justice
- County Drug Card Program, *Ron Howard, Coast2Coast*
- Examiners Report, *Teresa Durrett, Department of Examiners*

#### AAEM Breakout Session
- Storm Shelters
- Working with Elected Officials (Panel Discussion)

#### AAND Breakout Session
- Implementation of the New 9-1-1 Legislation, *Sonny Brasfield, ACCA Executive Director* and *Sallie Gowan, ACCA Director of Communications*
- Working with Your 9-1-1 Board (Panel Discussion)

### CROAA Breakout Session
- Briefing from ADOR Commissioner *Julie Magee*
- Business License Reform, *Joe Garrett, ADOR*
- Tax Court and Tax Payer Bill of Rights

12 - 1:15 p.m.
Convention Luncheon Honoring 2011-2012 President Tim Choate

1:30 - 4:45 p.m.
Afternoon General Session
- ATRIP Status Briefing, *John Cooper, Director, ALDOT*
- Awards Ceremony
- ACCA Business Session
- Executive Directors Report
- District Caucuses

6:30 p.m.
President’s Banquet Honoring 2012-2013 President Elect Ricky Harcrow

8 p.m.
President’s Inaugural Celebration Dance
Thinking of Running for ACCA Second Vice President or Minority Director?

One of the most important elements of the ACCA Annual Convention is the election of the Association’s Officers, Board of Directors and Legislative Committee. Officer positions to be filled at the Convention are President, First Vice President and Second Vice President. Tradition has held that those currently holding the position of First and Second Vice President move up to the posts of President and First Vice President respectively. This progression would mean that DeKalb County Commission President Ricky Harcrow would become President and Chambers County Commissioner Debbie Wood would become First Vice President for 2012-2013.

Those wishing to run for Second Vice President or Minority Director of the Association should fill out the form below and return it to the ACCA Office no later than Friday, July 20, 2012.

All candidates should be available to come to the ACCA office in Montgomery to meet with the Nominating Committee on Tuesday, August 7, 2012, at 10 a.m. This will be a time for the Nominating Committee to meet with each candidate and ask questions about his/her goals for the Association. The Nominating Committee will then meet during the convention and present a slate of candidates for consideration by the membership during the Business Session on Thursday afternoon.

Chairing the Nominating Committee this year is ACCA Second Vice President Debbie Wood. Committee members include Roger Creekmore, Colbert County; Stanley Menefee, Limestone County; Bill Strickland, Marshall County; Don Stisher, Morgan County; George Bowman, Jefferson County; Kim Ballard, Dallas County; Ryan Robertson, Cleburne County; Louis Maxwell, Macon County; Jiles Williams, Montgomery County; Rhondel Rhone, Clarke County; Steve McKinnon, Dale County; Merceria Ludgood, Mobile County.

Please understand that leadership positions within the Association carry with them a commitment of time and effort. Candidates should not seek these offices unless they are willing to make a commitment to be an active and regular participant in Association activities and endeavors. Officers are called upon to meet several times per year and often make unexpected trips to Montgomery to represent the best interests of counties. Those willing to serve as an officer must be willing and able to make these trips to Montgomery.

Name:______________________________________________________________________________

County:_____________________________________________________________________________

Are you running for _________ Second Vice President or _________ Minority Director

Please fax or email completed form to the ACCA office by July 20, 2012
Fax: (334) 263-7678 or Email: dkey@alabamacounties.org
Thinking of Running for the ACCA Board of Directors or Legislative Committee?

One of the most important elements of the ACCA Annual Convention is the election of the Association’s Officers, Board of Directors and Legislative Committee.

If you are interested in running for the ACCA Board of Directors or Legislative Committee from your district, please fill out the form below and return it to the ACCA Office no later than Friday, August 5. The names of those wishing to run will be collected by the ACCA staff and printed on a sheet that will be inserted in the Convention registration packets.

Please understand that leadership positions within the Association carry with them a commitment of time and effort. Candidates should not seek these offices unless they are willing to make a commitment to be an active and regular participant in Association activities and endeavors. Board and Legislative Committee members are called upon to meet several times per year and often make unexpected trips to Montgomery to represent the best interests of counties in their district. Those willing to serve as a Board or Legislative Committee member must be willing and able to make these trips to Montgomery.

It is also important for potential candidates to keep in mind that the Association’s by-laws now require those persons being elected to the ACCA Board to be in compliance with the provisions of Alabama law regarding the mandatory training program for newly-elected county commissioners.

Name:______________________________________________________________________________

County:____________________________________District:___________________________________

Are you running for _________ Board of Directors or _________ Legislative Committee

Please fax or email completed form to the ACCA office by August 10, 2012
Fax: (334) 263-7678 or Email: dkey@alabamacounties.org

Register online at www.alabamacounties.org

ACCA 84th Annual Convention
The 21st Annual Awards for Excellence in County Government will be presented during the Annual Convention’s Awards Ceremony on Thursday, August 22. This awards program is designed to bring statewide attention to outstanding accomplishments on the part of county government.

To ensure that all counties have a fair chance of being recognized, we will give Excellence in County Government Awards in two categories. The first award will go to a rural county – a county with a population under 50,000. The second Excellence Award will go to an urban county – a county with a population of more than 50,000.

Over the years, this awards program has brought recognition to programs across the state ranging from innovative approaches to industry recruitment, to unusual efforts at solving community problems.

The awards are intended to honor those programs implemented by the County Commission itself and not its agencies or boards. The awards are not to recognize those required programs that the county has carried out well, but instead honors those special efforts of County Commissions to meet the needs of their community in an innovative way. Detailed information concerning the Awards Program is sent directly to Commissioners and Administrators. If you would like to nominate someone for an award, please get a copy of the correct form from your Administrator, or you may download the forms from our website – www.alabamacounties.org. Please pay particular attention to the guidelines and judging criteria for the award. Deadline for entries is Friday, June 29, 2012.

The awards application also includes forms for other awards that will be presented at the awards ceremony.

Outstanding Contribution to County Government
This award is given annually to individuals who have contributed to the betterment of county government in a manner above and beyond what is expected in their everyday duties. It is not a longevity award, but represents significant contributions to county government statewide.

Previous winners include Tuscaloosa County Probate Judge Hardy McCollum; Rep. Bill Dukes; late Rep. Jack Venable; Mack Roberts, former director of the Alabama Department of Transportation; Buddy Sharpless, former executive director of the ACCA; Frank Courson, retired County Transportation Director for the Dept. of Transportation; Mike Scroggins, retired head of county audits for the Examiners of Public Accounts; and retired Montgomery County Commissioner Bill Joseph. These winners followed a long line of leaders who have been honored for their dedication and contribution to county government. This award is for true accomplishment by an individual or organization. Those wishing to nominate someone should complete a form and return it to the ACCA office by the deadline.

Tenure In Office Award
This award is given to County Commissioners who have served in office for at least 16 years. It is given to commemorate each year served, in multiples of four years, once the 16th year is completed. For example, a commissioner who has just completed his or her 16th, 20th, 24th, 28th or 32nd year of office is eligible for the award.

It is the responsibility of the county to complete the entry form for this award. The ACCA staff does not have service records on all the County Commissioners. Make sure your County Administrator completes the form for all qualified Commissioners.

Memorials
Memorials are issued by the ACCA for Commissioners who have died in office since August 2011. Please have your administrator complete this form if your county has lost a Commissioner during the past year.

If you have any questions about the Excellence Awards, please call Donna Key in the ACCA office at (334) 263-7594 or send an email to dkey@alabamacounties.org.
PLAY GOLF FOR $10!

2012 Convention Golf Tournament
ACCA 84th Annual Convention
Monday, August 20, 2012

- Glenlakes Golf Club
  9530 Clubhouse Drive
  Foley, AL 36535

- Noon: Lunch
  1:00 p.m.: Shotgun Start

- $10 per player for county officials and employees. This includes lunch, greens fees, cart, cold drinks and prizes!

- The tournament will use a scramble format to allow every player to be directly involved in the scoring. This format does not require that all players be expert golfers. Everyone, regardless of skill level, is encouraged to play!

- Register ONLINE by Friday, August 10, 2012!

2012 Fishing Expedition
ACCA 84th Annual Convention
Monday, August 20, 2012

- Reel Surprise Charter Docks
  (at SanRoc Cay Marina)
  27267 Perdido Beach Boulevard
  Orange Beach, AL 36561

- 1—7 p.m.
  Please be at the docks by 12:30 p.m.

- $95 per person for county officials and employees. This includes 6 hours of fishing, snacks and drinks!

- Register ONLINE by Friday, July 20, 2012!

We must have a minimum of 25 people signed up by July 20 or we will have to cancel.
The Association’s affiliate organizations and sponsored insurance programs will also meet on Tuesday. Members of all affiliate organizations should plan to be in Orange Beach for these meetings (see full agenda on pages 2 & 3).

In addition to the Opening General Session on Wednesday, we will also have our concurrent sessions during the afternoon. The County Extension Agents will provide our lunch on Wednesday and breakfast on Thursday with the annual County Agents Kitchen. This is always an extremely popular event, so be sure to tell the men and women in the orange vests how much we appreciate everything they do for us!

Thursday’s activities include the affiliate breakout sessions and the Convention Luncheon honoring out-going President Tim Choate for his year of service. Later in the afternoon we will have the Awards Ceremony, afternoon general session and business session, in which counties will elect their district representatives to the ACCA Board of Directors and Legislative Committee.

Everyone is invited to the President’s Banquet on Thursday night to hear President-Elect Ricky Harcrow outline his plans for the coming year. Following the President’s Banquet, we’ll enjoy the President’s Inaugural Dance.

As a county leader, your attendance and participation in the Annual Convention is critical. Don’t miss this opportunity. Make your plans now to attend the ACCA’s 84th Annual Convention! If you have any questions, please email or call Donna Key or Jennifer Datcher in the ACCA office at dkey@alabamacounties.org or jdatcher@alabamacounties.org or (334) 263-7594.