

CONVENTION *notes*

August 19-21, 2014 • Perdido Beach Resort • Orange Beach, Ala.

issue one | 2014

Hotel Reservations at Perdido

- You may register online at www.perdidobeachresort.com.
- Click on "Reservations" and enter group code **8167** when prompted.
- Or you may call Perdido at 800-634-8001 and use group code **8167**.
- The deadline for making hotel reservations is July 18, 2014.
- Our standard room rate is \$155 per night.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Convention Agenda
(pages 2&3)
- ACCA Election Information
(pages 5&6)
- Awards Information
(page 4)
- Golf and Fishing Information
(page 7)



Corrections at a Crossroads

A crisis in the prison system is not new to Alabama but each time the state has searched for solutions to overcrowding, county government has found itself at the center of the reform efforts. With a new round of reform on the horizon, the Opening General Session of the 86th Annual Convention will begin with an in-depth look at the experiences of other states and how counties elsewhere have struggled to adapt to similar initiatives.

The Convention is being held August 19-21, 2014 at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Ala.

In addition to an in depth look at the prison system, on Thursday afternoon we will hear from the candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General.

We are also 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 25. **ONE** spouse or guest may attend the convention at no additional charge.

Early registration will be \$185 (before July 25). Late registration will be \$210. Please note the deadline for refunds is August 1. **You can register online at www.alabamacounties.org.**

The convention will kick off on Tuesday, August 19, 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.

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

(Continued on page 8)

2014 Convention Agenda

ACCA 86th Annual Convention

August 19-21, 2014

Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Ala.



Monday, August 18

1 p.m.

Golf Tournament (*Lunch at Noon*)

Gulf Shores Golf Club

1 - 7 p.m.

Fishing Expedition

Reel Surprise Charter Docks

Tuesday, August 19

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 Meeting
- 4 p.m.
AAEM Membership Meeting

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Registration Desk Open

11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibit Showcase

11 a.m. - Noon

ACCA Board of Directors Meeting

12 - 1 p.m.

Strolling Lunch in the Exhibit Hall

1 - 5 p.m.

CROAA Education Meeting

- One Spot...One Year Later
- New Nexus Rule
- Changes to the Tax Payer Bill of Rights
- What's on the Horizon
- 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 20

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

8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Opening General Session

- **If We Fail to Act: California Case Study**, *Matt Cate, Executive Director, California State Association of Counties (invited)*
- **Pressure on Prisons**, *Tammy Meredith, Ph. D., Applied Research Services, Inc.*

- **State of the Alabama Prison System**, *Kim Thomas, Commissioner, Alabama Department of Corrections*
- **A Look at Lower Cost Solutions: Community Corrections and Drug Courts**, *Jeffery Williams, Deputy Commissioner for Governmental Relations and Community Corrections*
- **Too Many for Too Little: State Woes Weigh on County Jails**, *Speaker TBA*
- **Remarks from NACo President Riki Hokama** (*invited*)
- Report of the ACCA Nominating Committee

12 - 1:15 p.m.

County Agents Kitchen Lunch

1:30 - 4:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- **Update on the NACo Veteran's Committee and AlaVetNet**, *Stan Bateman, St. Clair County Commission Chairman and Mary Bell, NACo Financial Services Director*
- **Citizens Academy Success Stories**, *David Money, Chairman/ Probate Judge, Henry County and Chance Corbett, Russell County Commissioner*
- **Revenue Protection on Property Taxes for Subsidized Housing**

2014 Convention Agenda

ACCA 86th Annual Convention

August 19-21, 2014

Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Ala.



- How to Maximize Prescription Drug Savings for Your Citizens
- Q&A on Insurance Coverage Issues, *ACCA Staff*
- Open Meetings Law Refresher, *Mary Pons, ACCA Association Counsel*
- PLAN—Practical Leadership Action Network, *ACCA Staff*

Thursday, August 21

7:45 - 8:45 a.m.

County Agents Kitchen Breakfast

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

Breakout Sessions

Commissioners Breakout Session

- Metal Health Services in County Jails, *Speaker TBA*
- Liability Considerations When Housing City Inmates in County Jails, *Speaker TBA*
- Report from North Jackson, *Sonny Brasfield, ACCA Executive Director*

Commissioners and Engineers Combined Breakout Session (after the break)

- ATRIP Update, *John Cooper, Director, ALDOT*
- Road Vacation and Subdivision Regulations, *Mary Pons, ACCA Association Counsel*
- Improving Safety at Railroad Crossings, *Speaker TBA*

Engineers Breakout Session (before the break)

- Legislative Update (Call Before You Dig, Advertising for Bids, Prompt Pay), *Mary Pons, ACCA Association Counsel*
- Encroachments on Federal Aid Projects, *Speaker TBA*
- Update on Logging Notification, *Speaker TBA*

Engineers combine with Commissioners after the break

Administrators and CROAA

Breakout Session (before the break)

- Department of Revenue Update *Commissioner Julie Magee, (Invited)*
 - Tax Tribunal
 - Suspension of Taxes
 - Business License
 - Business Personal Property Tax
 - Business Rapid Response to Declare Disasters Act

AAEM Breakout Session

- Future of EMA, *Sonny Brasfield, ACCA Executive Director*
- What We Learned from the Ice Storms, *Speaker TBA*
- New Commissioner Handbook, *Phyllis Little, Cullman County EMA Director*

AAND Breakout Session

- Legislative Update, *ACCA Staff*
- Future of 911 in Alabama, *Sonny Brasfield, ACCA Executive Dir.*
- ANGEN Update, *Speaker TBA*

Administrators, CROAA, AAND and AEMA Combined Breakout Session

(after the break)

- Generational Challenges in the Workplace, *William Sauser, PhD, Professor of Management and Higher Education, Auburn University (invited)*

12 - 1:15 p.m.

Convention Luncheon Honoring 2013-2014 President Debbie Wood

1:30 - 4:45 p.m.

Afternoon General Session

- **Candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General**
- Awards Ceremony
- ACCA Business Session
- District Caucuses

6:30 p.m.

President's Banquet Honoring 2014-2015 President-Elect Merceria Ludgood

8 p.m.

President's Inaugural Celebration Dance, *Featuring The Tip Tops*

ACCA Awards Program

ACCA 86th Annual Convention

August 19-21, 2014

Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Ala.



The 23rd Annual Awards for Excellence in County Government will be presented during the Annual Convention's Awards Ceremony on Thursday, August 21. 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 27, 2014.

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 State EMA Director Art Faulkner, 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 gov-

ernment. 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 2013. 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.

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 Mobile County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood would become President and Morgan County Chairman Ray Long would become First Vice President for 2014-2015.

Those wishing to be considered by the Nominating Committee as candidates for Second Vice President or Minority Director of the Association must fill out the form below and return it to the ACCA Office no later than Friday, July 18, 2014.

All candidates must be available to come to the ACCA office in Montgomery to meet with the Nominating Committee on Tuesday, August 5, 2014, 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.

A new ACCA election policy requires that the Nominating Committee consider only candidates that respond by the deadline of July 18, 2014. Any other candidates would require a floor nomination.

Chairing the Nominating Committee this year is ACCA Second Vice President Ray Long. Committee members include Roger Hayes, Winston County; Stanley Menefee, Limestone County; Bill Strickland, Marshall County; Don Stisher, Morgan County; George Bowman, Jefferson County; Ricky Hubbard, Bibb County; Ryan Robertson, Cleburne County; Charlie Williams, Chambers County; Jiles Williams, Montgomery County; Rhondel Rhone, Clarke County; Steve McKinnon, Dale County; Connie Hudson, 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.

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

Name: _____

County: _____

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

Please fax or email completed form to the ACCA office by July 18, 2014
Fax: (334) 263-7678 or Email: dkey@alabamacounties.org

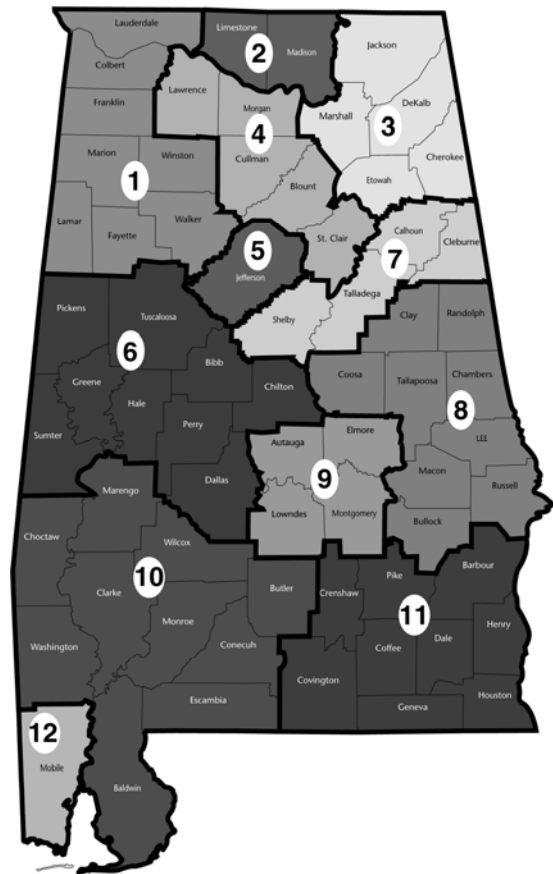
Thinking of Running for the ACCA Board of Directors or Legislative Committee?

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 8. 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 8, 2014
 Fax: (334) 263-7678 or Email: dkey@alabamacounties.org

PLAY GOLF FOR \$10!

2014 Convention Golf Tournament

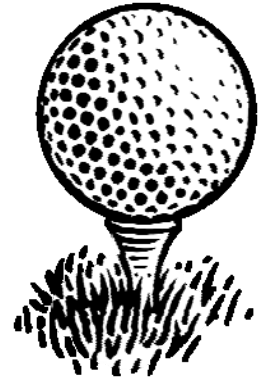
ACCA 86th Annual Convention

Monday, August 18, 2014

- Gulf Shores Golf Club
520 Clubhouse Dr, Gulf Shores, AL 36542
251-968-7366
- 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 8, 2014!



2014 Fishing Expedition

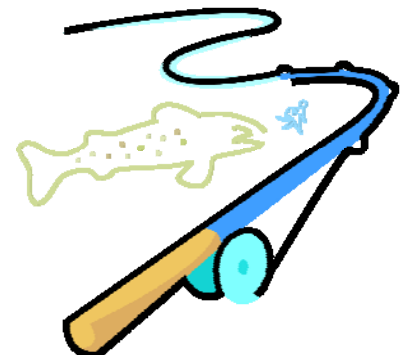
ACCA 86th Annual Convention

Monday, August 18, 2014

- 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 company representatives.
This includes 6 hours of fishing, snacks and drinks!

- Register ONLINE by
Friday, July 18, 2014!

We must have a minimum of 25 people signed up by July 19 or we will have to cancel.



(Continued from page 1)

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 outgoing President Debbie Wood for her year of service. Later in the afternoon we will have the Awards Ceremony 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 Merceria Ludgood outline her plans for the coming year. Following the President's Banquet, we'll enjoy the President's

Inaugural Dance with Commissioner Ludgood's favorite band...The Tip Tops!

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 86th 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.



ACCA Annual Convention Information Inside!