

Henry County Citizens Academy

{ David Money
{ Probate Judge / Commission Chair



HENRY COUNTY COURT HOUSE



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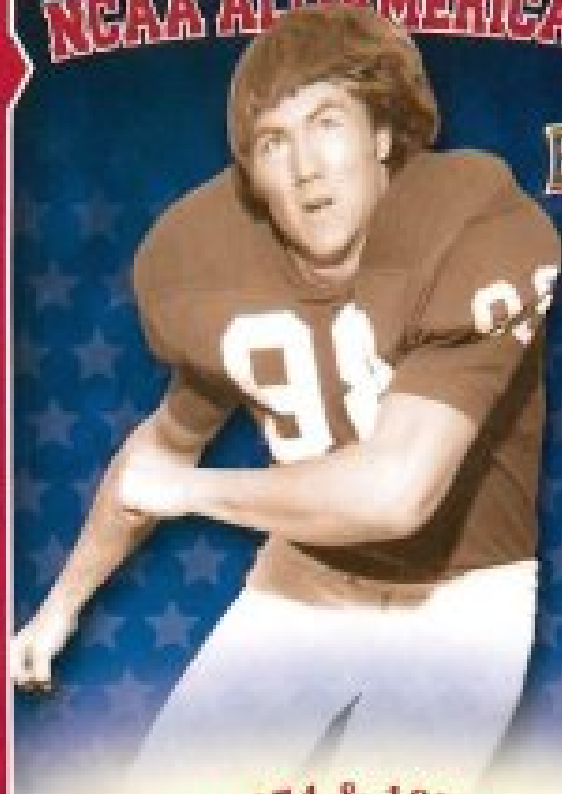
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FAQ (frequently asked questions) about the Henry County Citizens Academy

What is a County Citizens Academy?

A Citizens Academy is a program designed to help the people who live and work in the county gain a greater understanding of how county government and county services contribute to the community. Sessions will focus on public works, public safety, finances and other areas of county governance. The academy culminates in a graduation ceremony at a commission meeting to recognize participants who complete the program.

Why is Henry County offering a Citizens Academy?

Alabama county leaders do amazing work for their communities every day, but too often these critical contributions go unnoticed. The Henry County Commission wants to reverse this trend by inviting citizens to come inside the courthouse and other county facilities to see the good work being done.

Who can participate?

Participants must be at least 17 years old, live or work in the county and submit the one-page application form to the County Commission Office before the deadline of May 28, 2014. There is no cost. County officials will work to ensure the class is diverse in terms of race, age, gender, occupation and geography. The "faculty" will consist of elected officials and staff.

When will the Citizens Academy meet?

The five-month program will begin with on June 10, 2014 at 5:30pm and last until 7:30 pm one day each month. A graduation ceremony is planned during the Henry County Commission meeting on October 14, 2014 at 10:30am. Most meetings will last about two hours.

Where will the meetings take place?

All meetings will begin in the lower (first floor) courtroom. Meetings may then shift to other areas.

How can I learn more?

This is a program of the Henry County Commission. If you have additional questions you may contact Chad Sowell at 334-585-1911 or Karen Scott at 334-585-3708.



Henry County Commission
101 Court Square
Abbeville, AL 36310
334-585-3708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Chad Sowell
Public Information Officer
334-585-1911
chad.sowell@cityofabbeville.org

**Henry County Commission seeks participants for first-ever
Citizens Academy**

Program designed to help citizens learn more about county government

HENRY COUNTY - The Henry County Commission seeks applications from residents who want to take part in Henry County's first-ever Citizens Academy.

The five month program is designed to help county residents learn more about the inner workings of their county government. Class members will meet one afternoon a month for five sessions, culminating in a graduation ceremony that will take place during a commission meeting on April 8, 2014.

"We want to invite our citizens to connect with our county government. Your county works hard for you and we want you to see firsthand all the good things that are being done", said Henry County Commission Chairman Judge David Money. "We hope to be flooded with applications."

The various sessions will focus on county finances, operation of the commission and probate offices, roads and bridges, emergency management, E9-1-1 operations, and the sheriff's office. There is no cost to citizens for taking part, though participants are required to be adults over the age of 18 who live or work in Henry County.

The county is seeking a diverse group of participants who represent all walks of life and it is anticipated that each class will consist of 12-18 students. Applications are available in the commission office and must be returned no later than October 30, 2013.

"I am excited and honored to be apart of a program that will bring a working knowledge of county government to the citizens", stated Chad Sowell, E-911 Director and co-director of the program. "By holding these sessions and giving tours of county facilities, hopefully we are able to give the students a better understanding of county government."

A FAQ (frequently asked questions) sheet, schedule and application is available .

"I wholehearted commend Henry County for undertaking this Citizens Academy program", said Sonny Brasfield, executive director of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama. "County government is incredibly complex, and this kind of outreach can only stand to benefit Henry County citizens and elected officials alike."

Henry County Citizens Academy

Application (please print)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Commission District: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation / Job Title: _____

Race: _____ Gender: _____

Age: _____

In your own words, tell us why you want to take part in the Henry County Citizens Academy.

Summarize your involvement in the community.

The Henry County Commission does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual preference, age or disability.

I affirm that the information provided on this application is accurate.

Signature _____ Date _____

Henry County Citizens Academy

2013-2014 Schedule

Date & Time	Session	Location
September 16, 2013	Application released &	N/A
	media outreach begins	
October 30, 2013	Application deadline	N/A
November 7, 2013	Participants announced	N/A
December 10, 2013	Session 1: Orientation,	Courthouse
2:00pm	Judicial System Overview, Courthouse Tour	
January 14, 2014	Session 2: Probate, Revenue,	Courthouse
2:00pm	Commission, Finances	
February 11, 2014	Session 3:	County Shop
2:00pm	Roads and Bridges	
March 11, 2014	Session 4:	Jail, Courtroom
2:00pm	EMA, 9-1-1, Law Enforcement	EMA Office
April 8, 2014	Session 5:	Courthouse
1:00pm	Graduation	



Henry County Commission
101 Court Square
Abbeville, AL 36310
334-585-3708

HENRY COUNTY CITIZENS ACADEMY

December 10, 2013

AGENDA SESSION 1

- | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| I. | Welcome - | Judge David Money | 2:00 - 2:10 |
| II. | Class Introductions - | Chad Sowell | 2:10 - 2:20 |
| III. | Orientation - | Judge David Money | 2:20 - 2:40 |
| IV. | Judicial System - | Judge Derek Peterson | 2:40 - 3:10 |
| V. | Courthouse Tour - | Judge David Money | 3:10 - 3:30 |



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HENRY COUNTY CITIZENS ACADEMY

January 9, 2014

AGENDA SESSION 2

I.	Welcome -	Judge David Money	2:00 - 2:05
II.	Role of a Commissioner -	Benton Beasley	2:05 - 2:20
III.	Revenue Commission -	Kristie Allums	2:20 - 2:50
IV.	Probate Office -	Judge David Money / Claudette Hawthorne	2:50 - 3:25
V.	County Finances	Sherry Lipscomb/ Judge David Money	3:25 - 4:00



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Abbeville, AL 36310
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HENRY COUNTY CITIZENS ACADEMY

February 11, 2014

AGENDA SESSION 3

I.	Welcome -	Judge David Money	2:00 - 2:05
II.	Topic 1		2:05 - 2:30
III.	Topic 2		2:30 - 3:00
IV.	Topic 3		3:00 - 3:30
V.	Tour Facility	Chris Champion	3:30 - 4:00





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HENRY COUNTY CITIZENS ACADEMY

AGENDA SESSION 4

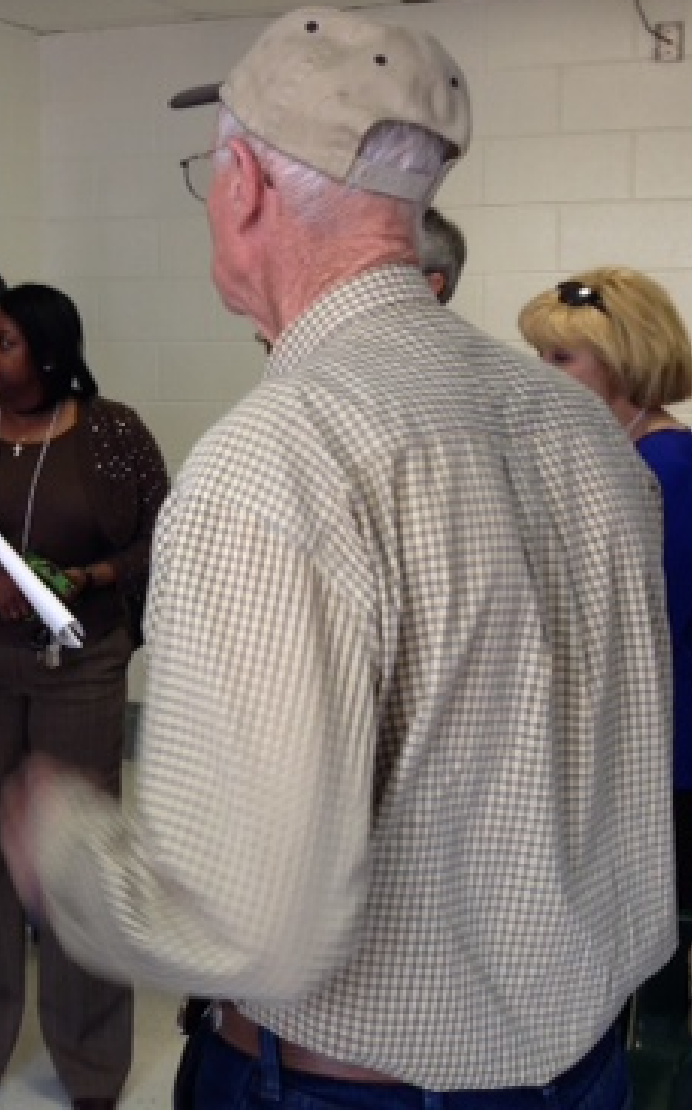
March 11, 2014

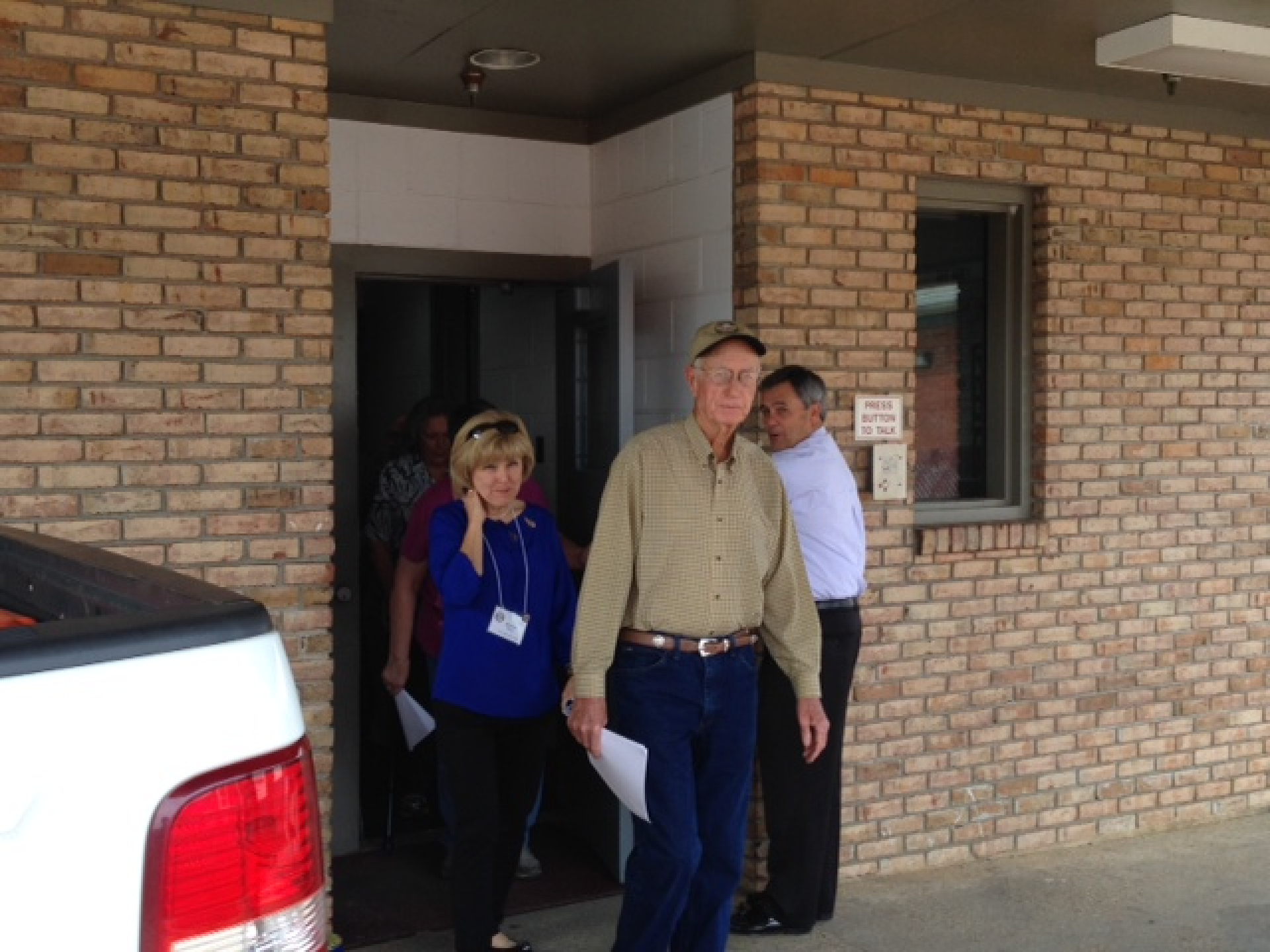
I.	Welcome	Judge David Money	2:00 - 2:05
II.	Law Enforcement	Sheriff Will Maddox	2:05 - 2:15
III.	County Jail Tour	County Jail	2:20 - 2:35
IV.	E-911 Center Tour	Abbeville Police Department	2:40 - 2:50
V.	EMA	Ronnie Dollar	2:55 - 3:20
VI.	E-911	Chad Sowell	3:20 - 3:45
VII.	Survey		3:45 - 4:00



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Henry County Citizen's Academy

Course Evaluation

	Worst				Best
1. Please rate each session on a scale from 1-5 (please circle one)					
Judicial System with Judge Peterson	1	2	3	4	5
Role of a Commission with Commissioner Beasley	1	2	3	4	5
Revenue Commission with Kristie Allums	1	2	3	4	5
Probate Office with Judge Money and Claudette Hawthorn	1	2	3	4	5
County Finances with Judge Money	1	2	3	4	5
Road and Bridge with Chris Champion	1	2	3	4	5
Emergency Management with Ronnie Dollar	1	2	3	4	5
E-911 with Chad Sowell	1	2	3	4	5
Sheriff's Office with Sheriff Maddox	1	2	3	4	5
2. Please rate your overall experience with the entire course	1	2	3	4	5
3. Would you recommend this course to other citizens? (please circle one)					
Definitely Not	Unlikely	Yes, with reservations	Likely	Yes with enthusiasm	
4. What did you find as the most valuable part of the course? (You may list more than one)					

5. What would you add or take away from the course? (You may list more than one)					

6. Please list any other comments you have about the instructors or ways to improve the course.					

From the Cover

Citizens Academy yields ambassadors for county government

The comment came from a resident of Henry County, but it could have come from anywhere in the state.

“I never really understood what the county commission really does,” said Faye Woods, shortly after the Henry County Commission recognized her and the other citizens who volunteered for an initiative to familiarize citizens with their county government. “I had no idea that the county was involved in so much; I have really been struck by the vastness of what goes on.”

Exposing citizens to the “real” story of county government was the driving force behind establishing a Citizens Academy at several locations around the state. The idea started in Mobile County but after representatives of that commission presented the positive results at an ACCA-sponsored training event, other counties – including Clay, Henry and Russell – have implemented similar programs.

86th Annual ACCA Convention

1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2014

“Citizens Academy Success Stories”

Probate Judge and Chairman David Money, Henry County
Commissioner Chance Corbett, Russell County

Register at www.alabamacounties.org

And the Association is highlighting the positive outcomes from a Citizens Academy during the Annual Convention in August. At that time, county officials will be given the details necessary to replicate the program.

See Page 32



Andalusia
334.222.9431

Albertville
256.891.3458

From the Cover

Every county should do this. —Faye Woods, Henry County

From Page 30

The Henry County Commission recognized the first “graduating” class of its Citizens Academy during a commission meeting on April 8, and state Rep. Dexter Grimsley and Sheriff William Maddox were also on hand to congratulate participants. Probate Judge and Commission Chair David Money recognized each one individually and praised the group as “extremely engaged, loyal and inquisitive.”

The program in Henry County involved five sessions during regular business hours designed to give an overview of the various programs and departments of county government. The academy began in December with a session on the courthouse and the judicial system, and other meetings explored county revenue, roads and transportation, law enforcement and emergency response.

Byron Starling, a retiree sometimes described as Henry County’s best fisherman, encouraged others to participate. “I’ve got something I’d like to say,” he declared, standing as his name was called by Judge Money. “After going through this, I learned some things about this county that I didn’t know. And I’ve lived here all my life. Henry County is in good hands.”

And that sense of community pride – that makes citizens into ambassadors for their home county – was one of the main goals, said Association Executive Director Sonny Brasfield.

“This is, in some ways, a conclusion of the program,” Brasfield told the participants. “But this commission is looking for all 12 of you to go out into the community and to share the information you learned. When people ask questions or make statements about county government, you should

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From the Cover



Participants in Henry County's first-ever Citizens Academy packed the first two benches at a recent commission meeting where they were recognized for completing the program, designed to help them gain a better understanding of all that county government does in their communities.

be armed with the correct information about the dedicated people who work for you every day.”

Henry County has scheduled a second Citizens Academy to begin in June.

“We are going shift to an evening time frame to include those who might not have been able to participate during regular business hours,” Money said. “We hope to have more than 12 this time.”

The commission will have little trouble getting volunteers for summer school, if Woods has anything to do with it.

“Every county should do this,” she concluded. “We had such great participation from everyone involved. Each office invested time in preparing and then explaining their role and duties to us. I was especially impressed with the complexity of the activities and the courtesy of the employees and how well they work together.”

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