

CONVENTION *notes*

August 18-20, 2015 • Perdido Beach Resort • Orange Beach, Ala.

issue one | 2015

Hotel Reservations at Perdido

- You may register online at www.perdidobeachresort.com.
- Click on "Reservations" and enter group code **9775** when prompted.
- Or you may call Perdido at 800-634-8001 and use group code **9775**.
- The deadline for making hotel reservations is July 17, 2015.
- Our standard room rate is \$160 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)



FUEL UP FOR A NEW DAY

The Alabama Legislature will meet well into June, which leaves much about the state budget unclear. One thing that is clear is that changes are on the horizon. As county officials and employees it will be important to continue to provide services to county citizens. So let's get ready to Fuel Up for a New Day in Alabama!

The Convention is being held August 18-20, 2015 at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Ala.

Many of you will remember that at last year's Convention we took an in depth look at Alabama's prison system and the much needed changes. This year we'll get a status update from Andy Barbee from The Council of State Governments Justice Center, the research group hired to analyze Alabama's prison system and make recommended changes. Andy has been at the forefront of negotiations and his insight will be beneficial for us to hear.

We have also invited newly installed Alabama Department of Corrections Commissioner Jeff Dunn to speak. And we hope to hear from Alabama Development Office Director Greg Canfield on economic devel-

opment incentives for rural Alabama. We are still in the early stages of planning the topics, but a full agenda can be found on pages 2 and 3.

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 24. **ONE** spouse or guest may attend the convention at no additional charge.

Early registration will be \$200 (before July 24). Late registration will be \$225. Please note the deadline for refunds is July 31. **You can register online at www.alabamacounties.org.**

The convention will kick off on Tuesday, August 18, with the Exhibit Showcase. The Opening Reception that evening will be held in the Exhibit Hall to give
(Continued on page 8)

2015 Convention Agenda

ACCA 87th Annual Convention

August 18-20, 2015

Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Ala.



Monday, August 17

1 p.m.

Golf Tournament (*Lunch at Noon*)

Gulf Shores Golf Club

1 - 7 p.m.

Fishing Expedition

Reel Surprise Charter Docks

Tuesday, August 18

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

- Voluntary Disclosure Guidelines
- One Spot Group Discussion
- SST Committee Update
- 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 19

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

- Changes to Alabama's Prison System, *Andy Barbee, Research Specialist, The Council of State Governments Justice Center*
- Alabama's New Prison Commissioner, *Jeff Dunn, Commissioner, Alabama Department of Corrections (invited)*
- Economic Development Incen-

tives for Rural Alabama, *Greg*

Canfield, Director, Alabama Development Office

- Charter Schools in Alabama
- Domestic Violence Legislation
- ALLKIDS - A Bright Spot in Alabama
- What ATRIP Has Done for Alabama Counties
- Report of the ACCA Nominating Committee

12 - 1:15 p.m.

County Agents Kitchen Lunch

1:30 - 4:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- Guns in Voting Precincts
- Road Funding Resources and Rules
- Secure Rural Schools Funding
- Income Tax Set Off, *ACCA Staff*
- Revenue at Risk, *Ken Webb, Attorney, Webb & Eley, PC*

Thursday, August 20

7:45 - 8:45 a.m.

County Agents Kitchen Breakfast

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

Breakout Sessions

Commissioners Breakout Session

- Local Constitutional Amendments Legislation, *ACCA Staff*
- County Modernization, *ACCA Staff*

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- Storm Shelters in Alabama, *Alabama Emergency Mgmt Agency*
- What You Need to Know About County Reappraisal, *Don Armstrong, Shelby County Property Tax Commissioner*
- Education Accountability
- The Future of the Gas Tax Bill
- Report from North Jackson, *Sonny Brasfield, ACCA Executive Director*

Engineers Breakout Session

- The Risks of Distracted Driving
- Procedural Requirements for Force Account Work on Federal or State Projects
- Effective Signage and Stripping for Rural 2-lane Horizontal Curves
- Fatality Accident Investigations on County Roads, *Craig Dillard, Webb & Eley, PC*
- Dam Safety Update

Administrators Breakout Session

- Drop in Court Costs, *Administrative Office of the Courts*
- County Modernization, *ACCA Staff*
- Local Constitutional Amendments Legislation, *ACCA Staff*

AAEM Breakout Session

- Update from the Emergency Management Advisory Council

AAND Breakout Session

- Topics TBA

CROAA Breakout Session

- Topics TBA

12 - 1:15 p.m.

Convention Luncheon Honoring 2014-2015 President Merceria Ludgood

1:30 - 4:45 p.m.

Afternoon General Session

- ACCA Plan 21
- ACCA Affiliate Reports
- Awards Ceremony
- ACCA Business Session
- District Caucuses

6:30 p.m.

President's Banquet Honoring 2015-2016 President-Elect Ray Long

8 p.m.

President's Inaugural Celebration Dance, *Featuring The Grand Band*

ACCA Awards Program

ACCA 87th Annual Convention

August 18-20, 2015

Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Ala.



The 24th Annual Awards for Excellence in County Government will be presented during the Annual Convention's Awards Ceremony on Thursday, August 20. 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 26, 2015.

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 ACCA for Commissioners who have died in office since August 2014. 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, President-Elect and Vice President. Tradition has held that those currently holding the position of President-Elect and Vice President move up to the posts of President and President-Elect respectively. This progression would mean that Morgan County Chairman Ray Long would become President and Marshall County Commissioner Bill Stricklend would become President-Elect for 2015-2016.

Those wishing to be considered by the Nominating Committee as candidates for 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 6, 2015, which is 45 days before the scheduled Business Session at the ACCA Convention where officers will be elected.

ACCA election procedures require that the Nominating Committee consider only candidates that respond by the deadline of July 6, 2015. Any other candidates would require a floor nomination.

All candidates must be available to come to the ACCA office in Montgomery to meet with the Nominating Committee on Wednesday, July 29, 2015, 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 Immediate Past President Debbie Wood. Committee members include Roger Hayes, Winston County; Roger Jones, Madison County; Tim Choate, Etowah County; Don Stisher, Morgan County; Sandra Little Brown, Jefferson County; Ricky Hubbard, Bibb County; Jackie Swinford, Talladega County; Charlie Williams, Chambers County; Stephanie Smoke, Elmore County; David Quarker, Escambia 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.

If you have any questions about the elections process please call Donna Key in the ACCA office at (334) 263-7594.

Name: _____

County: _____

Are you running for: Vice President or Minority Director

**Please fax or email completed form to the ACCA office by July 6, 2015
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 6, which is 14 days before the scheduled Business Session at the ACCA Convention.**

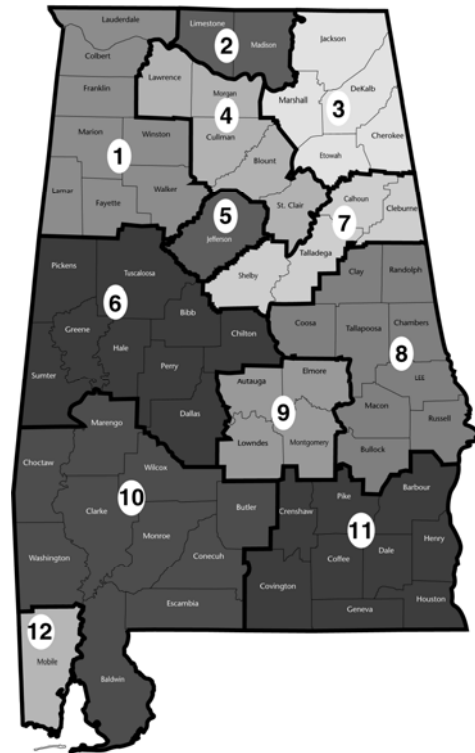
ACCA staff will publish a listing of all district candidates for the Board and Legislative Committee both before and during the Convention. An official ballot will be prepared for each county. Only those who return the form before the deadline will be listed on the ballot.

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.

If you have any questions about the elections process please call Donna Key in the ACCA office at (334) 263-7594.



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 6, 2015
 Fax: (334) 263-7678 or Email: dkey@alabamacounties.org

PLAY GOLF FOR \$10!

2015 Convention Golf Tournament

ACCA 87th Annual Convention

Monday, August 17, 2015

- 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 7, 2015!



2015 Fishing Expedition

ACCA 87th Annual Convention

Monday, August 17, 2015

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

- Register ONLINE by
Friday, July 17, 2015!

We must have a minimum of 25 people signed up by July 17 or we will have to cancel.



(Continued from page 1)

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 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 Merceria Ludgood 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 Ray Long outline his plans for the coming year. Following the President's Banquet, we'll enjoy the President's Inaugural Dance with Commissioner Long's favorite band...The Grand Band!

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 87th 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.



Please remember that in order to comply with the Alabama Ethics Law, you may only accept an invitation to dinner, etc. from a vendor that is a registered participant in the Convention.