

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
APRIL 2024



Alabama Governor Kay Ivey addressed a capacity crowd at the 2024 AUCA Spring General Meeting on April 18th, in Montgomery. A record 27 teams participated in the golf tournament that followed. A complete event wrap-up and photos can be found on pages 2-13 of this Newsletter.

Thank you to our many sponsors, volunteers, and attendees that made the event a tremendous success.

Tim

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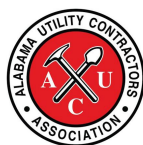
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AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

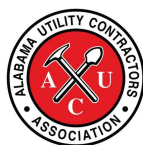
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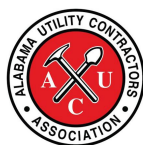
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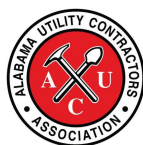
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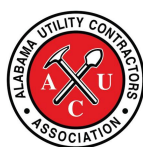
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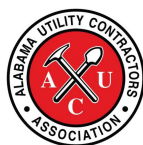
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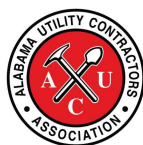
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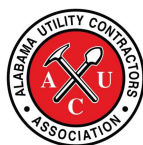
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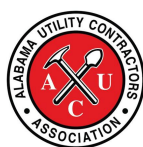
AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:



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AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:



1st Place Team:
Consolidated Pipe & Supply



2nd Place Team:
Marsh McLennan Agency



3rd Place Team:
American Ductile Iron Pipe

**Closest to Pin
Hole #7:**
Mark Mayfield



Longest Drive:
Chris Brannon



**Closest to Pin
Hole #16:**
John Ballard
(Not Pictured)



News & Notes:

2024 AUCA Scholarship Program Award Winners:

After reviewing a record number of applications, the AUCA Board of Directors approved the nominations of six scholarship applicants as recommended by the Scholarship Committee at the March 7th Board Meeting in Montgomery. All recipients have tremendous resumes, and are extremely deserving of these scholarships. Each scholarship awarded is worth \$1,500 per student.

The 2024 AUCA scholarship recipients are:

Jonah Byrd

Jonah is from Morris, AL and will be a Freshman at Auburn University majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He is a 2024 graduate of Mortimer Jordan High School and the son of Jordan Byrd from American Ductile Iron Pipe Company.

Charles Goodwin

Charlie is from Birmingham, AL and a Junior at Auburn University majoring in Building Science in the College of Architecture Design & Construction. He is a 2021 graduate of Spain Park High School, as well as a 2023 graduate of Wallace State Community College, and the son of Phil Goodwin from U.S. Pipe.

Wilson Patton

Will is from Fort Payne, AL and will be a Freshman at Auburn University majoring in Building Science in the College of Architecture Design & Construction. He is a 2024 graduate of Fort Payne High School and the son of Mark Patton from Benchmark Construction.

Graceson Pugh

Graceson is from Coker, AL and will be a Freshman at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa studying Architectural Graphics and Design Technology. She is a 2024 graduate of Pickens Academy and the daughter of Mark Pugh from Water Services Group.

Kinsey Roberson

Kinsey is from Hoover, AL and will be a Sophomore at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa majoring in Environmental Engineering. She is a 2023 graduate of Hoover High School and the daughter of Josh Roberson from Core & Main.

Mathew Swoboda

Mathew is from Gulf Shores, AL will be a Freshman at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa majoring in Business. He is a 2024 graduate of Orange Beach High School and the grandson of past AUCA President Bill McGough from W.R. Mitchell Contractor, Inc.



News & Notes:

National Work Zone Awareness Week - April 15-19:



The 2024 National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) was held on April 15-19. NWZAW is a national event held each spring to focus on roadway work zone safety. The national kickoff event is hosted by a selected state department of transportation (DOT) and focuses on the safety of roadway workers and the importance of staying alert to work zones.

This year's host was the Maryland Department of Transportation and the theme was "Work Zones are temporary. Actions behind the wheel can last forever."

Alabama 2nd Congressional District Runoff:

Democrat Shomari Figures and Republican Caroleene Dobson won their respective party nominations during runoff elections on April 16th. The two candidates will compete to represent the redrawn 2nd Congressional District in November.

April is National Safe Digging Month:

April is recognized by Congress and most Governors across the U.S. as National Safe Digging Month (NSDM). During the month, campaigns and activities will focus on promoting safe digging to the general public and professionals nationwide.

Alabama 811 will be hosting a series of informative meetings throughout the state during April and May on Underground Utility Coordination and Damage Prevention. This is a topic that AUCA receives more calls about than any other, so we hope you'll make plans to attend.

Know what's below, 811 before you dig!



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

SUMMER QUICK TRAIN

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN
COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION?**

**JUNE 5 - JULY 1
11 AM - 3 PM**



This course is designed and recommended for recently graduated high-school students and adults who are interested getting a head start on learning a trade in the commercial construction industry. This is a 4 week program that will teach you basic construction skills, construction safety and employability skills that contractors are looking for when hiring.

- Basic Safety
- Basic Hand and Power Tools
- Intro to Construction Math
- Intro to Construction Drawings
- Basic Rigging
- Basic Communication Skills
- Basic Employability Skills
- Intro to Material Handling

STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE 4 WEEK PROGRAM WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL AREA CONTRACTORS FOR POTENTIAL FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT.



APPLY TODAY!

Scan the QR code to
access the online application.
Applications due no later than
June 1, 2024.



Alabama Legislative News:

With only five of the possible 30 legislative meeting days remaining in the 2024 Alabama Legislative Session, the primary focus will be on final passage of the Education Trust Fund and General Fund Budgets, along with passing the remaining "Working for Alabama" bills aimed at increasing workforce and economic development. The conference committee of three senators and three representatives also continues its work to reach a compromise between the much different Gaming legislation plans passed by the House and the Senate.

The Legislature will return for the 26th legislative day on Tuesday, April 30th. With a maximum of five legislative days remaining, 491 bills have been introduced in the House and 344 in the Senate.

Remember to check our weekly "Legislative Pipeline" email report for continuous Legislative updates



AUCA Lobbyist B.T. Crowe introduces Governor Kay Ivey at the April 18th AUCA Spring Meeting in Montgomery.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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

April 1, 2024

FY24 Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water SRF Appropriations

Under the appropriations acts approved by Congress, the final FY24 appropriation for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) is \$851 million. While the overall funding for the SRFs is \$1.639 billion, this allocation was reduced by \$787 million in earmarks, which the Coalition continues to oppose.

The Safe Drinking Water SRF state allocations in the appropriations acts is \$494 million. The overall funding for the SRFs is \$1.126 billion but this number was also reduced by earmarks.

Funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was not addressed in the appropriations process.

WIIN Grants

\$20 million is allotted for Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) grants which is what the Coalition supported.

FY24 Appropriations Bills and FY25 Budget

The final FY24 appropriations bills have been approved by Congress and signed into law. The President has proposed his FY25 Budget which includes \$1.24 billion for the Clean Water SRFs, \$1.126 billion for the Safe Drinking Water SRFs, no SRF funding for related earmarks, and \$4 million for WIIN grants.

While the Appropriations Committees will spend the next few months considering the Budget, its future is far from certain, especially in an election year. In addition, House Republicans may again advocate for significant spending cuts.

STREAM Act

Discussions are continuing on the CWCC-backed Stream Act which would provide \$300 million over five years for water recycling, \$750 million for surface and groundwater storage and conveyance projects, \$150 million for desalination projects, \$100 million for drinking water projects for disadvantaged communities, and \$250 million for environmental restoration projects.

Garamendi Permitting Amendment

The "Garamendi amendment" passed the House and awaits action in the Senate. The Coalition supported this amendment which would allow the EPA to issue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination

Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 19)

Systems (NPDES) permits for local wastewater treatment and water recycling facility projects for up to 10 years instead of five years which is what the current law allows.

Other Issues

The Coalition continues to advocate for additional water funding for the Alternative Water Source Program and Mega Recycled Water projects.

Water Week Fly-In

The CWCC will be in Washington, DC to participate in the National Water Policy Fly-In which will take place from April 9-10.



Fleet Safety:

Provided by Marsh McLennan Agency - Southeast Risk Control Services

Work Zones

According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the National Highway Safety Administration, there are over 800 fatalities in work zones each year. As spring is here and summer is approaching, now is a good time to review safety tips for driving in work zones.

Hazards in Work Zones:

- Lane Closures causing bottlenecks
- Narrow Lanes
- Stopped Traffic
- Rough Roads
- Workers and Equipment possibly in the lane of travel
- Different types of traffic (adding pedestrians and bicycles)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports:

- 2022 there were 891 workzone fatalities
- 30+% were crashes involving Commercial Motor Vehicles
- 30+% were crashes involving speeding
- 20+% were rear-end collisions

Driving Tips for Construction and Work Zones

- **Remove all distractions** – cellphones, food/drink, GPS, etc. Work zones are dangerous as it is, but distractions only add to the hazards in these areas.
- **Slow Down** – speed is involved in over 30% of work zone crashes. Many states impose additional fines for work zone speeding due to the risk it poses to workers and other drivers.
- **Increase following distance** – most states recommend a 3 to 4 second following distance to the vehicle in front of you for passenger cars – CMV's recommend 1 second for every 10 feet of vehicle length at speeds of 40 mph and below. This should be increased in work zones due to the high possibility of equipment entering your lane or vehicles in front of you stopping suddenly.
- **Move Over** during lane closures soon as you can to avoid "squeezing" into a small opening between 2 vehicles. Remember the point of increasing your following distance and help others do the same.
- **Plan ahead** – most mapping programs will alert you to slow downs and construction zones. If you use GPS mapping, make sure to do this before leaving on your trip.

References: https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/facts_stats.htm#ftn9



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***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**

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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