

The Alabama

# MUNICIPAL

Official publication of the Alabama League of Municipalities

Journal

## 2021 Annual Convention Highlights



### Huntsville, May 12 - 15

*During the Annual Business Session, League Executive Director Greg Cochran presented 2020-2021 President, Mayor Leigh Dollar of Guntersville a plaque acknowledging her service to ALM. He was joined by 2021-2022 President Mayor Gary Fuller of Opelika (left) and Vice President Mayor Tony Haygood of Tuskegee (right). Minutes of the Business Meeting begin on page 7.*

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**2021 Convention Review Special Issue**

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LAWRENCE F. "TONY" HAYGOOD, JR. *Mayor, Tuskegee, Vice President*  
GREG COCHRAN *Montgomery, Executive Director*

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Many thanks to the Huntsville Fire and Rescue Color Guard for their participation in the Opening Session of ALM's 2021 Annual Convention in Huntsville.

# President's Perspective

2021 Opening Session  
May 13 • Huntsville

Mayor Leigh Dollar • ALM President

**S**ocial distancing, PPE, flatten the curve, zoom fatigue, herd immunity, mass vaccinations ... these terms became part of our daily vocabulary as COVID-19 inflicted unprecedented global disruption throughout the past year. Lives were lost – nearly 11,000 in Alabama alone – and livelihoods upended. Apprehension, anxiety and varying levels of trepidation left society exhausted, overwhelmed and somewhat dejected. Handshakes and hugs – staples of our Southern culture – became taboo, and masks that were once associated with very specific professions quickly became household items.

On March 13th last year, Governor Kay Ivey declared a State of Emergency due to the spread of COVID-19. All public K-12 schools closed on March 18th and on March 19th, Gov. Ivey ordered all beaches and childcare facilities closed and all restaurants, bars, breweries and similar establishments shuttered to on-site consumption of food or drink, reducing the industry to take-out or curbside pickup only.

A *Safer* at Home Order from Dr. Scott Harris, Alabama's State Health Officer, was issued on March 27th prohibiting all non-work-related gatherings of 10 people or more, or non-work-related gatherings of any size that could not maintain a consistent six-foot distance between individuals. The order also shut down a list



of “non-essential” businesses, including athletic and entertainment facilities, salons and a wide range of retail outlets. Hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities were closed to visitors and all dental, medical and surgical procedures were ordered postponed until further notice excepting emergencies.

On April 3rd, a *Stay* at Home order was issued directing every person to stay at his or her residence except as necessary to perform a list of “essential activities” due to “potential widespread exposure to an infectious agent posing significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people”.

On April 28th, a *Safer* at Home order was issued lifting some of the earlier restrictions on retail establishments as well as most medical procedures.

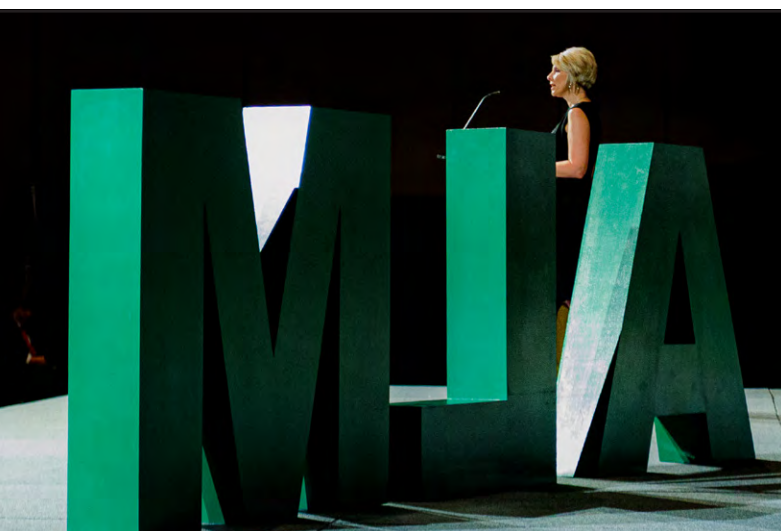
This was followed by an updated May 8th *Safer* at Home order with an expanded list of entities that could reopen, including beaches, all retail stores (subject to 50 percent capacity), restaurants, close contact service providers, such as salons, barbers and tattoo services, as well as gyms and athletic facilities – all subject to social distancing and sanitation guidelines.

Those two months last year – from mid-March to mid-May – brought unprecedented disruption and challenges to the way Alabamians live, work and play. It also strained our state and local governments as we all struggled to respond to the pandemic.

At the municipal level, our League continued to work strategically and aggressively with local, state and national organizations, agencies, stakeholders and partners to:

- gather accurate, transparent revenue loss data;
- ensure municipal authority remained intact;
- advocate on behalf of Alabama's municipalities at the state and congressional levels, particularly regarding stimulus funding; and

*continued on page 29*



# Executive Director's Report

2021 Annual Business Session  
May 14 • Huntsville

Gregory D. Cochran, CAE

*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader. – John Quincy Adams*

It goes without saying that the past year has been anything but traditional. In addition to navigating the challenges of a pandemic, we held an abbreviated version of our Annual Convention in Montgomery to satisfy the yearly requirements of holding an in-person business session. In August, our state held roughly 90 percent of municipal elections – all while there were dueling hurricanes on the coast. Shortly after the elections, our team hosted a socially distanced three-day event in Montgomery, which included an Orientation Conference that is presented every four years to municipal officials, as well as our Municipal Leadership Institute, which focused on economic and community development challenges and opportunities.

While each of these events looked different and presented its own set of challenges, I believe it taught us that we cannot be stagnant. We must evolve to be forward thinking and intentional leaders and we must continue to find creative ways to share our narrative.

Fortunately, since 1935, our League leadership has always been steadfast – understanding what it takes to get us through challenging times. During times of transition, uncertainty and celebration, Mayor Ronnie Marks, Mayor



Leigh Dollar and Mayor Gary Fuller worked together effortlessly to ensure that we never lost sight of our mission and vision and that everything the League staff pursued on behalf of our membership remained intentional.

With their guidance and the confidence of our board of directors, the last 18 months allowed the League to evolve by expanding staff; enhancing partnerships and member resources; and hosting conferences and events that offer timely and useful information. We did all of this with one goal in mind – to ensure the voice of municipal government is heard and that our communities are provided the resources they need to be their best self.

We began last June by expanding and restructuring the League team. Joining Kayla Bass, League Director of External Affairs, is Bryan Parker, League Director of Governmental Affairs, who has an impressive economic development background from his years with PowerSouth Energy and former Congressman Jo Bonner. Additionally, Baker Allen joined our team from the Governor's Office as Director of Policy and Research with extensive policy development skills, including substantial knowledge on issues that are vital to



*continued on page 12*



# Minutes of the Annual Business Session

May 14, 2021 • Huntsville

The Annual Business Session of the Convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities was called to order at 3:30 p.m., May 14, 2021, by President Leigh Dollar, at the Von Braun Convention Center in Huntsville, Alabama. President Dollar welcomed the attendees.

President Dollar called on Greg Cochran, Executive Director of the Alabama League of Municipalities, for his annual report. He reviewed the past year and all the challenges that the League and its staff successfully navigated. A full copy of his report can be found on page 5 of this publication.

Greg Cochran then presented to the membership the video annual reports for the Municipal Workers' Compensation Fund, Inc. (MWCF), the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC), the Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation (AMFund), and Municipal Intercept Services (MIS). Transcripts of these reports are on pages 15 - 18 of this publication.

After the various board reports, Greg Cochran acknowledged visiting non-active past presidents. He next presented a video honoring the retirement of long-time ALM employee Theresa Cook who retired in 2020 after 28 years of service to ALM. Videos memorializing past presidents of ALM Sonny Penhale, former mayor of Helena, and Arthur Holk, former mayor of Foley, were also presented. At the conclusion of the videos, Greg Cochran called upon ALM General Counsel Lori Lein to read the list of current and former officials who have died since the 2020 ALM Convention. The complete list can be found on page 24 of this publication. After reading the names, Lori Lein asked that if anyone has any other names to be included, to please get the information to an ALM staff member before the close of the convention.

Next, Greg Cochran presented the ALM Hometown Hero award to Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter, House Majority Leader of the Alabama House of Representatives. Also receiving Hometown Hero awards, but not present, were Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer of the Alabama Department of Public Health; Senator Jabo Waggoner; Representative Jim Hill; and Representative Margie Wilcox.

President Dollar thanked Greg Cochran for his reports and then called on Lori Lein who read the rules for voting during the League Business Session.

After the reading of the rules, President Dollar informed

the membership that the Executive Committee had met on May 11, 2021, to prepare a slate of nominees to be presented for consideration. She noted that they had a tough assignment choosing officers for the next year from an abundance of very qualified candidates. She then called on Lori Lein to read the report on nominations:

## LEADERSHIP

For President: Gary Fuller, Mayor, Opelika

For Vice President: Tony Haygood, Mayor, Tuskegee

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### From the First Congressional District:

1. Mayor Jim Staff, Atmore
2. CM Katherine Breeden, Loxley
3. Mayor Paul South, Jackson
4. CM Newton Cromer, Saraland
5. Mayor Jason Stringer, Citronelle

### From the Second Congressional District:

1. CM Michael Gay, Millbrook
2. Mayor Bill Gillespie, Prattville
3. Mayor John Hammock, Tallassee
4. Mayor Jason Reeves, Troy
5. Mayor Mark Saliba, Dothan

### From the Third Congressional District:

1. Mayor Rusty Jessup, Riverside
2. CM Billy Pearson, Lincoln
3. Mayor Alberta McCrory, Hobson City
4. Mayor Ron Anders, Auburn
5. CM Michael Ellis, LaFayette

### From the Fourth Congressional District:

1. Mayor Woody Jacobs, Cullman
2. Mayor Allen Dunavant, Glen Allen
3. CM Deverick Williams, Gadsden
4. Mayor Mike Lockhart, Muscle Shoals
5. Mayor Scott Reeves, Hokes Bluff

### From the Fifth Congressional District:

1. Mayor Randy Garrison, Hartselle
2. Mayor Gary Livingston, Eva
3. Mayor Tommy Battle, Huntsville
4. Mayor Sandra Burroughs, Lexington
5. CM Tommy Perry, Priceville

**From the Sixth Congressional District:**

- 1. Mayor Scott Brakefield, Alabaster
- 2. Mayor Ashley Curry, Vestavia Hills
- 3. Mayor Bobby Scott, Center Point
- 4. Mayor Frank Brocato, Hoover
- 5. Mayor Bobbie White, Brent

**From the Seventh Congressional District:**

- 1. CM Charles Jinright, Montgomery
- 2. Mayor James Perkins, Selma
- 3. Mayor Gwendolyn Rogers, Linden
- 4. Mayor Brian Puckett, Helena
- 5. Mayor Sheldon Day, Thomasville

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Ex Officio voting members of the Board of Directors  
(Active Past Presidents)

- Mayor Leigh Dollar, Guntersville
- Mayor Ronnie Marks, Athens
- Councilmember Jesse Matthews, Bessemer
- Mayor Howard Rubenstein, Saraland

- Mayor Phil Seagraves, Guin
- Councilmember Sadie Britt, Lincoln
- Mayor Walt Maddox, Tuscaloosa
- Mayor Charles Murphy, Robertsdale
- Mayor Lew Watson, Lincoln
- Councilmember Johnny Ford, Tuskegee
- Councilmember Harold Swearingen, Pine Hill

**STANDING COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP**

**State and Federal Legislation:**

Chair: Mayor Mark Saliba, Dothan (2021)  
Vice Chair: CM Ruthie Campbell, Robertsdale (2021)

**Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations:**

Chair: CM Charles Black, Priceville (2021)  
Vice Chair: CM Jennifer Williams Smith, Jasper (2021)

**Energy, Environment and Natural Resources:**

Chair: Mayor Johnny Smith, Jacksonville (2020)  
Vice Chair: Mayor Ashley Curry, Vestavia Hills (2021)

*continued on page 10*



*Congratulations to ALM's newly elected President and Vice President - Mayor Gary Fuller of Opelika (right) and Mayor Tony Haygood of Tuskegee (left). Immediate Past President Mayor Leigh Dollar of Guntersville passed the gavel to Mayor Fuller during the Annual Business Session. We appreciate her leadership and look forward to working with Mayors Fuller and Haygood this year!*



# President's Acceptance Address: Mayor Gary Fuller

*On May 14, Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller was elected by his municipal colleagues during the Annual Business Session to serve as President of the Alabama League of Municipalities for 2021-2022.*

**T**hank you very much for allowing me to serve as your president. I consider it a high honor. With God's help and your help, we will have a successful year! I am grateful for many things but at the top of the list is my family, especially my wife Laura, the great citizens of Opelika, our City Council and the outstanding associates I get to work with every day in our community.

League President Leigh Dollar, Mayor of Guntersville, has done a truly remarkable job leading our organization during this most unusual year. Leigh successfully juggled her job leading Guntersville as well as the League while we all struggled with COVID-19; there were League staff changes including a new Executive Director, Greg Cochran, and a renovation of League headquarters in Montgomery. If that was not enough, Leigh had a re-election campaign to deal with in August! Congratulations, Leigh – job well done!

I know I speak for all of you in expressing appreciation to our League staff. Greg Cochran has made a smooth transition as Executive Director. Like most of us, Greg is surrounded by a lot of really smart people ... Carrie Banks, Lori Lein, Kayla Bass, Richard Buttenshaw, Chuck Stephenson and many more. This great team didn't miss a beat because of COVID-19!

We're grateful to Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and his team for hosting our convention. They've been great to work with during this unprecedented and strange time. Many thanks, Tommy.

The Alabama League of Municipalities is doing for us what most of us cannot do for ourselves. No question there is strength in numbers and the League, now more than ever, speaks with a clear, strong voice representing our best interests with the Alabama Legislature. We've positioned our organization to have more influence with lawmakers and other elected officials as they make decisions that impact all of us. Greg, Kayla and their advocacy team have done a nice pivot, even with the pandemic limiting access to the State House, to build and solidify our relationships with lawmakers.

The past year from the municipal perspective – remote work, virtual schooling, online council meetings, fluctuating unemployment levels, business closures, churches shuttered, social and sporting events canceled ... even with these stressors, municipal operations continued because local government was able to evolve to meet the challenges. People live locally and, therefore, local government is about grassroots leadership. It's pretty easy for folks in Opelika to find me and members of our City Council – and I bet it's the same in your community. So, we have to be responsive as well as accountable! And now, as many people are getting vaccinated, businesses, churches and schools are reemerging from a year of uncertainty – and as funding via the American Rescue Plan Act is making its way into our communities – we must be thoughtful, intentional and deliberative in how we address current challenges while ensuring the future of our communities is healthy.

I remember what Mayor Ronnie Marks said when he became League President two years ago. He was talking about why each of us is willing to serve our respective towns and cities. Mayor Marks said we do this because we want to “make a difference.” He is making a difference in Athens just as Mayor Dollar is making a difference in Guntersville. My challenge to you is to “make a difference” in your community and your State. You know, we're all just passing through – coming this way one time. At some point, and I hope it's a long, long time for me and you, we're going to leave this place. We'll leave with the same thing we brought – nothing. But, each of us can leave a mark on our community with what we do as elected officials. We can make a difference. Imagine what would have happen in your community if everyone had the burning desire to make a difference – in the workplace, on Main Street, churches, schools ... Let's add a small twist and not care who gets the credit. We can do things for the simple joy of knowing it will help our citizens and our community.

I'm honored to accept the position as President of the League and ask for your involvement and support as we continue to move forward. ■



## **Community and Economic Development:**

Chair: CM Wayne Biggs, Saraland (2020)

Vice Chair: CM Joe Watson, Brewton (2020)

## **Public Safety**

Chair: CM Jerry Starnes, Prattville (2020)

Vice Chair: CM Michael Ellis, Lafayette (2020)

## **Transportation, Infrastructure and Communications:**

Chair: CM Michael Gay, Millbrook (2020)

Vice Chair: Mayor Tab Bowling, Decatur (2020)

## **Human Development:**

Chair: Mayor Carol Barfield, Ashford (2021)

Vice Chair: Mayor Ron Anders, Auburn (2021)

After the reading of the Nominations Committee Report, President Dollar asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Seeing none, she stated that unless there was an objection, she declared the nominations closed. There were no objections.

Councilmember Michael Gay, Millbrook, moved for the adoption of the Nominating Committee Report as presented. Mayor Howard Rubenstein, Saraland, seconded

the motion, which passed unanimously. The President declared all officers elected.

President Dollar congratulated Mayor Fuller and the other officials elected to serve the League and called upon Mayor Fuller to make remarks to the membership. Mayor Fuller thanked the membership for allowing him the honor of serving as the League President. After expressing his gratitude to his wife and family, Mayor Fuller recognized the truly remarkable job that Mayor Leigh Dollar did being president during COVID-19 and during the transition in leadership at the League. A full copy of Mayor Fuller's acceptance speech can be found on page 9.

After his speech, Mayor Fuller called upon Greg Cochran for announcements. Greg Cochran recognized the League's strategic and community partners and reminded the membership about the President's reception that evening in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center.

There being no further business, Mayor Fuller officially adjourned the meeting.

Lori Lein, General Counsel  
Acting Secretary

## Thank you for your hospitality, Huntsville!

The League held its annual convention in Huntsville May 12-15 with 600+ delegates, 100+ guests and a full Municipal Marketplace Expo Hall (nearly 100 vendors). While some convention elements had to be reimagined due to health and safety guidelines, after more than a year of COVID-induced disruptions – where meetings were canceled, virtual or extremely limited in-person experiences – the League staff and board of directors was very pleased to once again host our most anticipated event of the year!

Many thanks to Mayor Tommy Battle, the Huntsville City Council and city employees for their help in organizing this event and for hosting a fantastic Welcome Reception on May 12th that set the tone for the entire convention.

*Pictured: Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle welcomes attendees to the Rocket City during the League's Opening Session on May 13.*



# Mayor Lawrence F. "Tony" Haygood, Jr. of Tuskegee Elected League Vice President

On May 14, Tuskegee Mayor Lawrence F. "Tony" Haygood, Jr. was elected by his municipal colleagues to serve as Vice President of the Alabama League of Municipalities for 2021-2022. He was elected and took office during the League's Annual Business Session, which was held in Huntsville

Mayor Haygood, who was elected mayor of Tuskegee in 2016 and re-elected in 2020, has served on numerous League committees as well as the Board of Directors, is an Advanced Certified Municipal Official and is Chair of the Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation (AMFund) Board of Directors.

He received his undergraduate degree at Rhodes College with a major in Political Science and a minor concentration in Economics. He received his MBA from Auburn University Montgomery with additional studies in Management Science as Krannert School of Management at Purdue University and The Georgia Institute of Technology. In the summer of 2011, he completed the Intensive Economic Development Training Course at Auburn University.

Mayor Haygood serves as Economic/Business Development Specialist at the Tuskegee-Macon County Community Development Corporation (TMCDC). In that capacity, he has been working closely with the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program (TUCEP) and as a member of the Booker T. Washington Economic Summit Planning Committee. He has worked with the TMCDC staff to promote business development in the county, support improvement of entrance corridors, perform housing rehabilitation, conduct entrepreneurial training and manage a community revolving loan fund. As a grant writer, he worked with TUCEP and TMCDC staff to acquire substantial grant funding for community programs.

In addition to being a member of the Housing & Urban Development (HUD), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and Community Development Action Coalition (CDAC) national boards, Mayor Haygood is also a current member and past president of Alpha Nu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He previously served as President of Southern Community College, Chairman of the Tuskegee Area Health Education Center, as well as past State Vice-President for Alabama New South Coalition. Mayor Haygood was selected as Alabama Tree Farmer of the Year in 1998 and received the Tuskegee University Merit Farm Family Award in 2005 at the 113th Annual Farmer's Conference. ■



## 2021 CMO Regional Training

**Strengthen Your Core:**  
Fundamentals of Municipal Government

This summer, the League's Legal Team will lead six one-day trainings on fundamental topics in municipal government

Go to [www.almonline.org](http://www.almonline.org) for more information



local governments. This has allowed us to provide strategic data and statistics to back and enhance our position on issues.

In July, we held our Annual Convention in Montgomery, which consisted of a one-day business session where we updated the League's Constitution for the first time in more than 30 years. This update will allow our organization to be intentional in how it approaches its services and structure. In particular, the board of directors, which consists of our President, Vice President and five representatives from each congressional district, now includes an executive committee made up of 10 active past presidents. Forty-seven members from North to South and East to West are represented on the board, each with a unique skillset and background. Because the League represents the *entire* state, it is imperative that you are engaged and that you encourage others around you to become engaged. It takes all of us, working in unison, to move the needle for local governments with lawmakers, our congressional delegation, the media and stakeholders.

A new initiative that has proven to be valuable is our strategic partnership program. This program is designed specifically for organizations and companies that share a similar mission and vision as the League. The partnerships provide unique and intentional collaboration opportunities to foster vibrant communities where businesses want to invest and where citizens want to live, work, play and prosper. To date, we have 16 strategic partners. Their investment and trust in our organization is part of what make events like this a success.

We did all of this and more while still collaborating with key leaders such as Governor Ivey, Attorney General Marshall, Dr. Scott Harris, cabinet members, lawmakers, the County Commission Association and the National League of Cities to host virtual meetings that presented information to you as it pertains to the health and well-being of your community.

Recently, we restructured the League's standing committees, formerly known as policy committees. The committees will now meet in the fall at League headquarters to hear from state and federal resource advisors and recommend any pertinent legislative considerations to the Committee on State and Federal Legislation. Additionally, the Committee on Transportation and Public Safety has been separated into two committees, which are the Committee on Public Safety and the Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Communication.

We are also updating our 1970s physical footprint with extensive building renovations to include a redesigned conference room, state-of-the-art technology, reimaged office space to accommodate more employees and a modern lounge and waiting area for guests. In July, the

conference room was completed, and we have already had several meetings of the board, held educational sessions with various stakeholders and hosted several lawmakers throughout the legislative session for dinner to strategize on legislative issues impacting municipalities. We are on track to complete all renovations by July and hope that when you are in Montgomery you will stop by to see the new and improved League headquarters. This has been a major investment and would not have been possible without the engagement of our board of directors. I want to thank you for entrusting us with this project and I want to thank the members of the staff building committee who I selected to work closely with the architects and engineers to oversee this process – Chuck Stephenson, Director of Information Technology; Barry Crabb, Finance Director; and Richard Buttenshaw, Director of Financial Services.

Looking ahead, we have several trainings and networking opportunities available to you throughout the remainder of this year.

This summer, the League's Legal Team will offer six one-day, in-person, trainings focused on the fundamental topics in municipal government. These sessions are approved for four and a half credit hours in the Basic, Advanced and Emeritus CMO Programs. Not only will this be a great way to strengthen your core training in municipal government, it also gives attendees an opportunity to satisfy core curriculum requirements in one year. We hope you take advantage of this worthwhile opportunity – registration is on our website at [almonline.org](http://almonline.org).

In July, in partnership with Neal Wade, former Director of Economic Development for the state of Alabama, and Chancellor Jimmy Baker with the Alabama Community College System, the League will launch its municipal Economic Development Academy. The academy is specifically designed to educate and engage municipal officials on the elements and phases of economic development. We are thrilled to be offering you resources that have the ability to jumpstart lifechanging initiatives and projects within your community.

We are also excited to host seven in-state Congressional luncheons this August to provide municipal officials a unique opportunity to network with their congressional delegation and staff as well as their state lawmakers. In addition, the luncheons are an excellent way to not only develop lasting relationships with your state and federal delegation but to update them on specific issues and concerns facing your communities.

Finally, in November, we will host our annual Municipal Leadership Institute which will focus on early and higher

education – specifically how this ties into community and economic development.

We are working closely with a company called The Public Information App to develop and launch a custom mobile app that will allow us to share critical information with you regarding the events I have just mentioned. As soon as it is launched, we will share information across our platforms so that each of you has the opportunity to download.

All of this, and more, is possible thanks to the League’s tremendous staff.

The Advocacy Team, which works closely with Lori Lein, League General Counsel, has proven to be an effective force at the State House. With Kayla’s skillset of telling our narrative, Bryan’s experience in economic development and congressional connections, Baker’s ability to gather data and then communicate that to lawmakers and Lori’s legal guidance, they have shown that even during a pandemic much can be accomplished! Ahead of the legislative session, we hosted more than 120 municipal officials in Montgomery for Advocacy Day. Officials heard from House and Senate leadership panels and Peritus PR on best practices to articulate their message to lawmakers. In March of this year, the Advocacy Team passed legislation that revises more than 90 percent of municipal elections. They passed this legislation in just 17 days! With limited access to the State House, and legislative issues arising swiftly, it is critical that our advocacy efforts are the best they have ever been. In doing so, when lawmakers returned to Montgomery on February 2nd, the advocacy team kicked off Coffee and Conversations, a virtual series with state leaders and municipal officials to discuss their legislative priorities, department updates and resources available to municipalities. In addition, they hosted weekly in-person dinners with various lawmakers at League headquarters to provide updates on what we were hearing from cities and towns. Together, the virtual calls and dinners have proven to be a fantastic way to spend time with state leaders and update them on important legislation impacting municipal government.

Our Communications Team, Carrie Banks and Karl Franklin, are responsible for every graphic you see throughout this Convention and throughout the year. I cannot say enough about what a great job Carrie and Karl do to enhance our narratives through their unique talents. In addition, they ensure our members are informed and aware of grant opportunities, events, webinars, and more through the League’s weekly e-newsletter “This Week.” Each of you should be receiving a copy of the *Alabama Municipal Journal*. The *Journal* is prepared by our Communications Team and provides well-timed information on the operation of cities and towns. I think we can all agree that our magazine is one of the most polished and informative of any in the nation, and I am proud to say that it is all accomplished in house.



This year, I challenged the legal team to expand their reach. And they have done just that! Lori has been more engaged than ever with advocacy, providing valuable insight that aids in negotiations and conversations as we work to streamline municipal government. Rob Johnston and Teneé Frazier are spearheading the AAMA and AMJA conferences and in June will be traveling around the state discussing the fundamentals of municipal government at the upcoming

CMO regional trainings I mentioned earlier. Sharon Carr, who not only does a wonderful job as Legal's gatekeeper, stepped up following the retirement of Theresa Cook and has been instrumental in the success of this Convention.

Chuck and the IT Team have worked diligently during the pandemic, as well as throughout the year to make certain that we had the equipment needed to perform our duties inside and outside the office. He and his team have done a tremendous job! In April, IT gained a new employee, Elizabeth Ingram, who will be working closely with our new database system, iMIS.

Our Finance Team works each day to ensure our foundation is intact. Barry Crabb - with his experience working closely with city budgets has paid dividends throughout the pandemic, as well as legislatively. We often run legislation by him to review what financial impact, if any, there could be on our municipalities. Richard Buttenshaw has expanded his role from overseeing day-to-day operations for MWCF to also include MIS, AMFund and MRS. Additionally, he co-manages the Loss Control Division in concert with Steve Wells.

Lastly, our Member Services Team has continued to grow as we seek to expand outreach. We added Keely Smith in

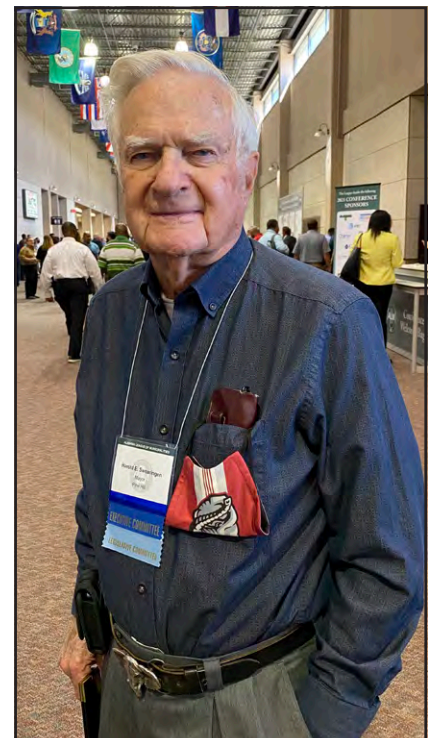
the newly created role of Conferences and Events Manager where she is directly responsible for the logistics of all conferences and workshops as well as the League's Annual Convention. Previously, Keely spent nearly 20 years in sales with the Montgomery CVB. We also hired Debra Pascal, who serves as Executive Assistant to me and the Advocacy Team. Prior to joining the League, Debra was an integral part of Alabama's Bicentennial working closely with the Bicentennial Commission. Because of this she has a great understanding of Alabama's communities.

While we may be a team of only 23, our experience, expertise and reach are massive. I am unbelievably proud of the collaboration and performance of your staff. Throughout the pandemic, our building renovations, the 2020 elections, the legislative session, a series of conferences and much more, they *never* wavered. They showed up every day solution oriented and committed to providing you with the best service and resources possible.

In closing, I would like to thank Mayor Battle and his team, the city of Huntsville and each of you for making this a successful convention. It has been wonderful to meet and fellowship in person and I know we're all looking forward to a prosperous year beyond COVID-19! ■

## League Past President Mayor Harold Swearingen of Pine Hill 50 Years of Service; Notable League Milestones

League Past President Mayor Harold Swearingen of Pine Hill is the only municipal official to have worked with *every* executive director of the Alabama League of Municipalities. He was first elected to office in 1964, the year before Ed Reid, the League's first executive director (1935-1965) passed away from cancer. He then worked closely with the League's second executive director, John Watkins (1965-1986), serving as League President from 1985 until 1986 during the League's 50th Anniversary and as Watkins retired and Perry C. Roquemore, Jr., became the League's third executive director (1986-2011). In 1989, Swearingen, who was also a successful insurance professional, worked closely with Roquemore and the League's leadership to develop the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC). In 1990, Swearingen was then recruited to lead AMIC, resigning as Pine Hill's mayor, where he had served for 26 years. In 2000, he turned the AMIC reins over to Steve Wells and "retired" home to Pine Hill where he once again became active in municipal government, serving as a councilmember and now, again, as mayor. This year, Swearingen, who is 95, was recognized at ALM's Annual Convention for 50 years of municipal service, although his commitment to municipal government and the welfare of our state extends well beyond his years in office. *Thank you, Mayor Swearingen, for your devotion and many contributions to your community and to the Alabama League of Municipalities!* ■  
(Photo: Mayor Swearingen at the League's 2021 Convention in Huntsville.)



# MWCF Board Report • 2021 Business Session • Huntsville

The Municipal Workers Compensation Fund is a program of the Alabama League of Municipalities that was formed **BY** Alabama's municipalities **FOR** Alabama's cities and towns.

Founded in 1976, MWCF is the second oldest League insurance pool in the nation and was created at a time when national insurance carriers were *abandoning* Alabama and her communities.

MWCF understands your needs because we are *your* Alabama neighbor.

MWCF is led by a board of five veteran elected officials made up of mayors and councilmembers from municipalities large and small. Under the board's leadership, MWCF strives to not only provide workers comp insurance but to promote *safe* workplaces that ensure employees return home healthy and well after serving their communities.

MWCF Members receive access to invaluable resources including a dedicated Loss Control team that provides risk management and safety services such as specialty training and seminars, free access to online training through LocalGovU, a FATS firearm training simulator and real-time, behind-the-wheel training through a state-of-the-art SKIDCAR system.

Today we are pleased to bring you the annual report on the activities of **YOUR** Municipal Workers Compensation Fund.

- MWCF currently has more than 630 members.
- Membership renewals have remained steady year over year.
- Net premiums for the 2020 fund year were approximately \$28 million.
- During the October 2020 Board Meeting, the Board of Directors approved a distribution of \$4 million to be given as a renewal dividend to eligible members towards their 2021 premiums. This represents the single largest renewal dividend given in MWCF's history.
- Total dividends for all fund years is now in excess of \$73 million.
- Unaudited financial statements show total assets of \$196 million as of January 31, 2021.
- MWCF remains financially very strong.

Because MWCF is an Alabama company representing Alabama communities with Alabama professionals, we remain connected to your *unique* needs.

The MWCF Board of Directors thanks you for your membership and continued support.

MWCF prides itself in achieving common goals through uncommon service.

MWCF is **YOUR** local workers comp provider.



[www.almwcf.org](http://www.almwcf.org)

# AMIC Board Report • 2021 Business Session • Huntsville

The Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation is not only a not-for-profit mutual insurance company; it is wholly owned and controlled by its member cities and towns. Five from throughout the State of Alabama sit on the Board of Directors and take an active role in keeping AMIC focused on its original goals.



AMIC was formed 31 years ago with \$6 million in capital contributions from 233 cities and towns. Today AMIC is the premier provider of property and causality insurance for public entities in Alabama. The 233 capitalized members that helped start AMIC have now received more than \$16.5 million in dividends. That is over a 275% return on your investment.

## Speaking of Numbers:

- AMIC has paid out over \$473,000,000 in claims since 1989
- AMIC insures approximately 95 percent of all public entities in Alabama and has 588 members
- AMIC retains over 99 percent of its business annually
- Total assets exceed \$142 million
- Current premiums exceed \$50 million
- And total surplus is over \$73 million
- AMIC also insures more than \$9 billion in property values, 20,000 vehicles and nearly 5,000 police officers

AMIC provides your cities and towns with its 48 dedicated in house staff members with services that range from:

- 24/7 claims handling
- A team of 10 sales and underwriting staff that make sure your policies are delivered on time and are correct
- A dedicated team of 10 loss control staff that provides a range of services and programs from general and police loss control audits to services such as the SKIDCAR, FATS system, Local Gov U library, as well as onsite training and seminars

The Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation realizes that its member cities and towns provide essential public services with the most exposure to risk and the least amount of money. AMIC works hard every day to protect you and your ability to continue to deliver those essential services without fear of financial ruin.

From the Board of Directors and everyone at AMIC, thank you for what you do and for your continued support.

And please always remember: We are here to *Insure the Future of YOUR Local Government.*

[www.amicentral.org](http://www.amicentral.org)



# AMFund Board Report • 2021 Business Session • Huntsville

The Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation was formed in 2006 by the Alabama League of Municipalities to assist Alabama's cities and towns in funding local projects, equipment purchases and refinancing existing debt.

The purpose of AMFund is to provide timely, low-cost, direct bank debt financing to fund almost any size municipal project.



AMFund is managed by a board of directors composed of five municipal elected officials and works with financial advisor Louie Cardinal with Thornton Farish and Leo Lawrenson as pool administrator to take advantage of economies of scale allowing municipalities to:

- Receive competitive, fixed rate debt financing.
- Significantly reduce borrowers' transaction costs.
- Minimize staff time by using straightforward, direct bank debt loan documentation.

AMFund partners with national banking institutions to provide our members competitive fixed rate financing on General Obligation and Revenue borrowing needs for:

- Infrastructure
- Capital improvement projects
- Equipment purchases
- Refinancing of existing loans

AMFund has received several funding requests during the 2020 calendar year and has been able to assist several applicants in obtaining fixed rate financing for the purchase of equipment and capital improvement projects. Since its inception in January 2006, AMFund has commissioned 77 loans in excess of \$150 million with no borrower defaults. We encourage you to consider AMFund as an option for your refinancing, general obligation, revenue and equipment leasing needs.

We look forward to serving you in the future.

[www.amfund.com](http://www.amfund.com)

# MIS Board Report • 2021 Business Session • Huntsville

Does your town or city have debts you just can't seem to collect regardless of your efforts? Well, Municipal Intercept Services may be able to help ... at no charge to your municipality!

In 2014, the Alabama State Legislature enacted an amendment allowing municipalities and counties to attempt to recover delinquent debts owed to them by collecting this debt from the individual's state tax refund.



In 2015, the Alabama League of Municipalities formed Municipal Intercept Services as its clearinghouse entity to act as a conduit between participating Alabama municipalities and the Alabama Department of Revenue.

FREE to eligible participating members, MIS is NOT a debt collection agency or service. Instead, MIS is a UNIQUE way to attempt to recover money owed to your municipality by “intercepting” an individual’s Alabama State tax refund. Debt collection agencies can NOT offer you this service. Any municipal debt that is considered final; is still within its statute of limitations; and is more than 60 days old can be submitted to MIS.

**Examples include:**

- Municipal Court Fees and Fines
- Judgments
- Library Fees
- Medical, EMS and Hospital Bills
- Ordinance Violations
- Traffic Light Violations
- Parking Fees
- Rental or Lease Agreements
- Returned Checks
- Sanitation and Garbage Fees
- Utility Bills

**As of March 29th, 2021, MIS had:**

- More than 225 active participants
- Over 250,000 debts in the system valued at more than \$375 MILLION
- More than 95,000 intercepts with over \$12 MILLION disbursed since inception

*MIS is Alabama’s ONLY state tax refund municipal debt recovery program and is PROUD to serve Alabama’s cities and towns!*

[www.alintercept.org](http://www.alintercept.org)



**A**s in previous years, ALM’s “Ask Your Attorney” general session was an Annual Convention highlight. Below is a sampling of questions answered during this year’s very popular session held on May 14 at the League’s Convention in Huntsville. The League Legal Department is available during regular business hours to answer your questions and provide you with legal guidance.

**Where does the council’s power begin and the mayor’s end? Roles of the city council and the mayor (mayor council form of government).**

The council is the legislative body and, as such, is the policy maker of the city or town. The council also has authority over municipal property and finances. Decisions concerning municipal property or finances must come before the council for approval. The mayor is the chief executive officer for the city or town and responsible for carrying out the policies established by the council. The mayor is also the chief executive over municipal employees. Supervision of municipal employees, including reprimands and day-to-day operations, is strictly within the realm of the mayor’s authority.

**Can we delete comments from the city’s social media pages if it includes misinformation or is inflammatory?**

When a municipality creates a Facebook page or other social media sites and allows for public comments, it has created a public forum invoking First Amendment constitutional freedom of speech protections. Public comments posted to the page cannot be arbitrarily removed. One approach is to disable

all comments and to only use the page to push out information. If a municipality wants to allow for comments, it cannot pick and choose which comments to keep.

**What happens if my city attorney tells me something different from what the League attorney said? Who is right?**

In the words of Mickey Mcinnish, City Attorney for the City of Montgomery: “I can’t tell you who is right, but I can tell you who you need to rely on and that is your city attorney, because that is who will defend you in court.”

Many of the questions we get in the Legal Department don’t lend themselves to a yes/no clear-cut answer. The answer from the League attorney is largely dependent on the facts of the question presented. Sometimes the facts given and the facts known by the city attorney are different which can lead to a different answer. Because your city attorney is in the best position to know all the facts, we will almost always defer to your city attorney. When questions or issues arise, we will often ask you to have your city attorney get in touch with us so that we can discuss the issue. It is never our job or position to undermine the city attorney.

**Is a councilmember allowed to see any and all information at City Hall whenever they want?**

Individual councilmembers have no greater right to city information than a citizen coming in and seeking public records. Council members can request public records from the clerk or the mayor. If the council would like a report from a department head, the council can seek that information by making a request to the mayor or asking for that information

at a council meeting. The council can also ask for information from department heads, but it should take care that the request is not deemed as supervising city employees. If the city has a policy for requesting information from department heads, the council should follow the policy.

The mayor must present a written financial report to the council at least once every six months to show the financial condition of the city or town. Further, Section 11-43-84, Code of Alabama 1975 provides that the mayor shall require reports to be made to him by any officer of the city or town at such times as he may direct or as may be prescribed by the council.

At the first regular meeting of the council each month, the mayor is required to make a written report to the council listing the fines and costs remitted, sentences commuted and pardons and paroles granted by him or her during the preceding month and stating the reasons therefor. Section 12-14-15, Code of Alabama 1975.

Please note that some information is statutorily prohibited from being disclosed such as tax information, business license information or National Crime Information Center reports. Individual councilmembers, and sometimes even the mayor, have no special right of access to this protected information, which must be protected from disclosure by the record custodian. Please understand that disclosure could result in civil and criminal penalties.

### **What are the highlights of the new law changing police jurisdiction and planning jurisdictions?**

Act 2021-297 immediately freezes police jurisdictions to 1.5 miles for municipalities with a population less than 6,000 and 3 miles for municipalities with a population of 6,000 or more. This means that as your municipality annexes, the police

jurisdiction will not continue to grow with new annexations. Eventually, the police jurisdiction will simply go away as new territory is annexed.

While the Act allows municipalities that are collecting business licenses and/or sales taxes in the police jurisdiction as of January 1, 2021, to continue to do so, it limits enforcement in the police jurisdiction to state misdemeanors adopted as municipal ordinance violations. This would stop enforcement of purely local municipal ordinances not tied to state misdemeanors (noise, leash, dust, etc.). Building code enforcement is allowed in the police jurisdiction for municipalities that are enforcing as of January 1, 2021. Once the county provides building code enforcement, however, the Act provides for a 24 month phase-out by the municipality unless the county and city enter into an agreement.

Planning jurisdictions are immediately reduced to 1.5 or 3 miles, respectively. Effective January 1, 2023, the planning jurisdiction of any municipality will be 1.5 miles. However, the Legislature through local legislation may extend the planning jurisdiction beyond 1.5 miles. Unlike the police jurisdiction, the Act does not “freeze” planning jurisdictions, thus allowing planning jurisdictions to continue to grow along with the municipal corporate limits.

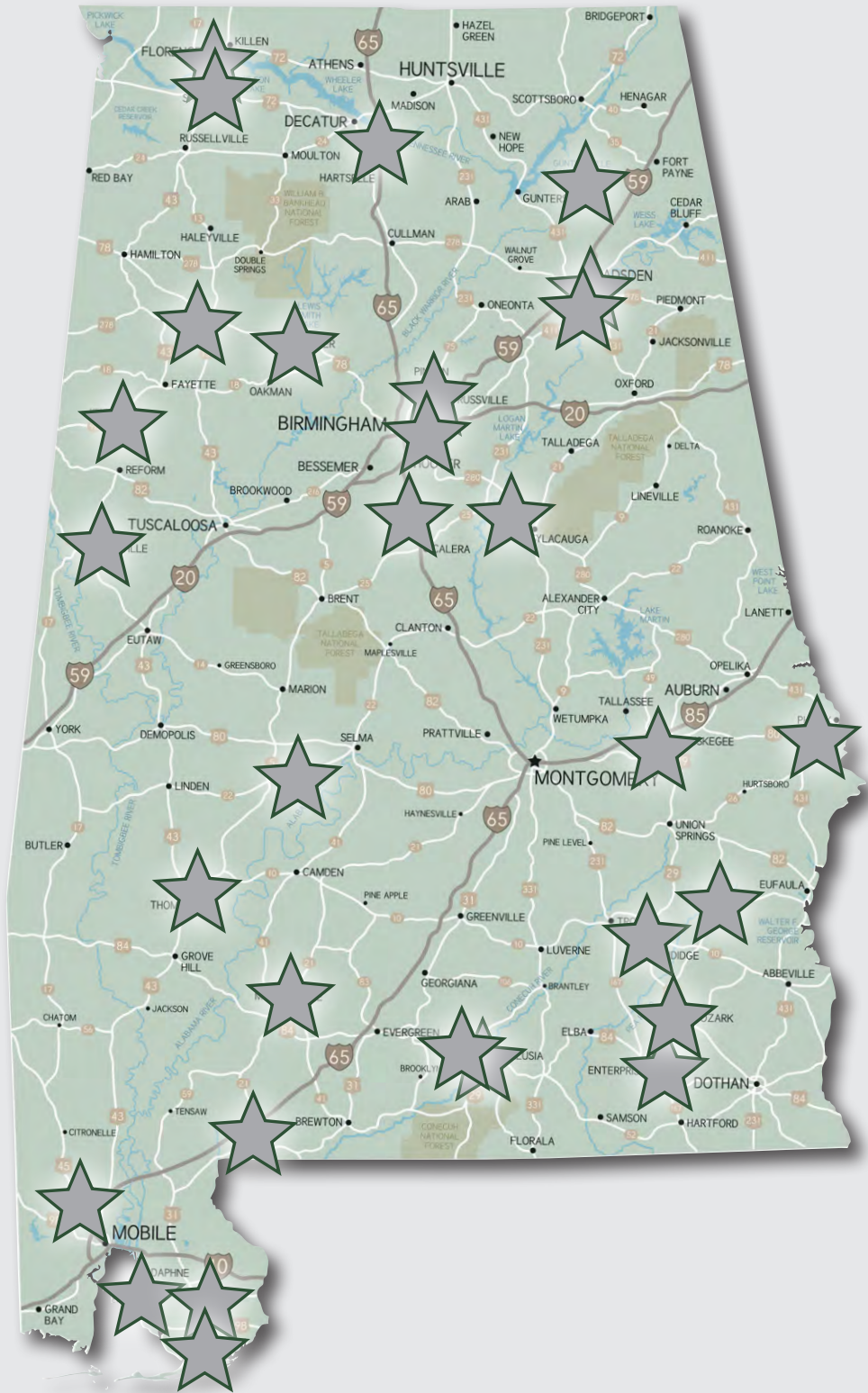
The Act also adds new reporting requirements for municipalities. It amends existing reporting requirements to a date certain (March 1 for the previous fiscal year), and it provides that if reporting is not made within 12 months of the deadline, the municipality may no longer continue licensing and taxing in the police jurisdiction. A municipality must report its budget for police and/or fire departments overall, and it must report the number of calls and activity overall and specific to police jurisdiction. ■



*General Counsel Lori Lein, Assistant General Counsel Rob Johnston, Assistant General Counsel Teneé Frazier and Montgomery City Attorney Mickey McInnish answered questions during the Ask Your Attorney session at the 2021 Annual Convention.*

# 2021 Municipal Flag Showcase Participants

- Aliceville
- Andalusia
- Atmore
- Brundidge
- Center Point
- Childersburg
- Clayton
- Daleville
- Fairhope
- Florence
- Foley
- Gadsden
- Geraldine
- Glen Allen
- Gulf Shores
- Irondale
- Jasper
- Millport
- Monroeville
- Muscle Shoals
- Orrville
- Ozark
- Pelham
- Phenix City
- Priceville
- River Falls
- Semmes
- Southside
- Thomasville
- Tuskegee





# 2021 Hometown Heroes

Presented May 14 at the 2021 Annual Convention

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and with limited access to the State House during the 2021 Regular Session, the Alabama League of Municipalities continued to work closely with statewide leaders, lawmakers, agencies, organizations, partners and stakeholders to ensure the voice of cities and towns was heard. Several key individuals have proven invaluable in this effort and were recognized as the League's 2021 Hometown Heroes on May 15 during ALM's Annual Business Session in Huntsville.

**Dr. Scott Harris** serves as the State Health Officer for the Alabama Department of Public Health. Dr. Harris has been instrumental in providing guidance throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and has always made himself and his staff readily available to the League and its members. We appreciate his persistence, guidance and expertise.

**Senator Jabo Waggoner** was recognized for his efforts in championing ACT#2021-157, the Municipal Elections Revisions Law. As a five-time recipient of the League's Hometown Hero award, Senator Waggoner works tirelessly each session to advance the quality of life for cities and towns. We appreciate his unwavering support of municipal government throughout the years.

**Representative Jim Hill** was recognized for his efforts in championing ACT#2021-157, the Municipal Elections Revisions Law. As a judge and attorney that represents municipalities, Representative Hill understands the critical role local government plays in our state. We appreciate his steadfast support throughout this legislative session.

**Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter**, Majority Leader for the Alabama House of Representatives (pictured), was recognized for his protection and preservation of municipal authorities. As a former municipal official, Representative Ledbetter understands firsthand that municipalities are the foundation of Alabama's economy and that we must do everything we can to ensure they are offered the resources they need to thrive.

**Representative Margie Wilcox** is recognized for her efforts to ensure government transparency and accountability. Leading up to and throughout the 2021 Legislative Session, the ALM Advocacy Team worked diligently with Representative Wilcox to collect local motor fuel reporting requirements to submit to the Joint Transportation Committee. Representative Wilcox was always engaged with our team on this effort and we appreciate her collaboration.



*Pictured left to right: ALM Vice President Mayor Tony Haygood of Tuskegee; ALM President Mayor Gary Fuller of Opelika; Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter; ALM Past President Mayor Leigh Dollar of Guntersville; and ALM Executive Director Greg Cochran*



# 2021 Distinguished Service Awards

Presented May 15 at the 2021 Annual Convention • Huntsville

Each year during its Annual Convention, the League presents Distinguished Service Awards to mayors and councilmembers who have completed 20, 30, 40 and 50 years of service in municipal government. A total of 33 awards were announced during the 2021 Annual Convention on May 15 in Huntsville. Below is a list of the 2021 recipients.

## 20 Year Service Awards

Councilmember O’Mildred Ball, Town of Hobson City; Councilmember William Jeffrey Chandler, City of Collinsville; Councilmember Barry Hughes, City of Bridgeport ; Councilmember Bobby Pounds, Town of Sardis City; Councilmember Bobby Seabolt, City of Bridgeport; Councilmember Carol Snider, Town of Coaling ; Councilmember Chris Sims, City of Glencoe; Mayor Chuck Ables, Town of Geraldine; Mayor David Hughes, City of Bridgeport; Councilmember Don Steward, City of Southside; Councilmember Frederick Striplin, Town of Hobson City; Mayor Gary Fuller, City of Opelika; Mayor Jenny Countryman, Town of Excel; Councilmember Jerry Wayne Byram, Town of Leesburg; Councilmember Jim Johnson, Town of Flomaton; Councilmember Ouida Mayfield, City of Columbiana; Councilmember Randal Cerovsky, Town of Waverly; Councilmember Randy Davidson, Town of McIntosh; Councilmember Roger W. Adkinson, Town of Flomaton; Mayor Russell Amos, Town of

Sardis City; Councilmember Samuel L. Randolph, City of Selma; Councilmember Stephen E Jones, City of Gulf Shores; Councilmember Tim Washington, Town of Gordo; Councilmember Travis H. Crowe, City of Heflin; Mayor Vaughn Goodwin, Town of Trinity; Councilmember Virginia C. Smith, City of Mountain Brook; Mayor William R. Marks, City of Athens; Councilmember William S. Pritchard, III, City of Mountain Brook

## 30 Year Service Awards

Mayor Bill Baker, City of Piedmont; Mayor Donald Nelson, City of Creola; Councilmember Dr. Horace Patterson, City of Talladega

## 40 Year Service Award

Councilmember Wayne Tucker, City of Springville

## 50 Year Service Award

Mayor Harold Swearingen, Town of Pine Hill

# Certified Municipalities • Congratulations to Opp!

The annual Certified Municipality award was created in 2018 from the Certified Municipal Official Program to recognize and commend cities and towns where the mayor and all councilmembers have earned the professional designation of Certified Municipal Official thereby distinguishing the municipality as a Certified Municipality. This designation signifies the mayor and all councilmembers have completed a minimum of 40 credit hours of formal training on municipal government conducted or endorsed by the Alabama League of Municipalities. Qualifying municipalities are selected by ALM based on CMO program credit hour records during the previous calendar year. Qualifying municipalities receive a certificate and an annual Certified Municipal Achievement Award digital seal for their municipal website. The City of Opp was recognized on May 15 as a Certified Municipality for the second year in a row. Well done!



# *In Memory*

**The League memorializes the following officials who have died in office since its last convention:**

- Arley: Gerald Goodwin, councilmember
- Beatrice: Willie Lambert, councilmember
- Clanton: Sammy Wilson, councilmember
- Eldridge: Bobbi Jean Dodd, mayor
- Geraldine: Timothy D. Gilbert, councilmember
- Jemison: Robert Morris, councilmember
- Luverne: Charlie Johnson, councilmember
- Montgomery: Tracy Larkin, councilmember
- Montgomery: Richard Bollinger, councilmember
- Napier Field: Greg Ballard, mayor
- Wilsonville: Gordon Fluker, councilmember
- Woodville: Jackie Franks, councilmember

**The League memorializes the following former officials who have died since its last convention:**

- Argo: Herschel Phillips, former councilmember
- Centre: Glenn Chandler, former councilmember
- Centre: Tom Wade, former councilmember
- Fayette: Neil McCabe, former councilmember
- Fayette: Brannen Perry, former councilmember
- Foley: Arthur Holk, former mayor and former ALM president
- Fultondale: Thomas “Tip” Blizzard, former councilmember
- Gadsden: John G. “Jack” Page, former councilmember
- Gadsden: Holley W. Arbery, former councilmember
- Glen Allen: Joe Stewart, former mayor
- Hammondville: Susan Akes, former mayor
- Helena: Sonny Penhale, former mayor and former ALM president
- Lipscomb: Joyce Campbell, former mayor
- Lipscomb: Deborah Miller, former mayor
- Montgomery: Larry Dixon, former councilmember
- Moundville: Walter Bryan (Buster) Chandler, former mayor
- Prattville: Sid Thompson, former council president
- Pinson: Barbara Clifton, former councilmember
- Reform: Nancy Keasler, former councilmember
- Roanoke: Richard Laird, former councilmember
- Roanoke: Mike Fisher, former mayor
- Robertsdale: Willie Taylor, former councilmember
- Smiths Station: James Moody, former councilmember
- Sulligent: Bo Morris, former councilmember
- Troy: Charles Meeks, former mayor
- Twin: Charles Rayburn Baccus, former mayor
- Vernon: Tom Eskridge, former mayor
- Vestavia Hills: Dr. Charles “Scotty” McCallum, former mayor



# League Mourns Passing of Past Presidents Penhale and Holk

## Mayor Sonny Penhale, ALM President 2007-2008

League Past President and former mayor of Helena Charles “Sonny” Penhale passed away on January 20, 2021, at age 89.

Mayor Penhale served the City of Helena for 48 years – first as a councilmember from 1960 until 1964 and then as mayor from 1968 until 2012 – and is remembered as one of Helena’s most respected and beloved public servants, shepherding the city’s growth from just over 1,000 residents to nearly 17,000 during his tenure. His proudest accomplishments were the construction of three new schools in Helena, including Helena High School. In addition to being mayor, Sonny also worked for more than 40 years at American Cast Iron Pipe Company where he started his career as a special welder and worked his way up to Foreman.

As mayor, Sonny was an active member of the Alabama League of Municipalities, serving on numerous committees and as League President from 2007-2008. He also served four years on the board of directors for the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund, Inc. from 2008 until 2012. His devotion to municipal government and his friendship will be missed by his colleagues throughout Alabama. ■



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## Mayor Arthur Holk, ALM President 1986-1987



League Past President and former mayor of Foley Arthur Holk passed away on March 13, 2021, at age 95.

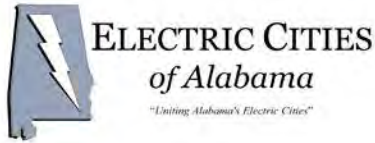
He contributed greatly to the history and development of the City of Foley through his political service and community involvement. In 1952, he was elected as councilmember where he served for 20 years before eventually following in his father's footsteps, becoming Foley's 50th mayor and serving the City of Foley for another 20 years.

After completing a degree in Agricultural Science from Auburn University in 1949, Arthur began a successful lifetime career in the insurance industry as the President and CEO of Baldwin Mutual Insurance Company and an Agent for State Farm Insurance. In addition, he devoted countless hours volunteering and serving on many boards of civic and business organizations. As a municipal official, Mayor Holk was an active member of the Alabama League of Municipalities, serving on numerous committees and as League President from 1986 until 1987. He also chaired the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation's board of directors for several years shortly after it was formed. His devotion to municipal

government and his friendship will be missed by his colleagues throughout Alabama. ■



# The League recognizes Community Partners



# our Strategic Partners, and League Programs



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It's about saving lives



Creating Jobs. Keeping Character.







League President Mayor Leigh Dollar of Guntersville delivers the President's Address on May 13 during the Opening Session of ALM's Annual Convention in Huntsville.

- distribute critical information to cities and towns regarding COVID-19 and the many resulting statewide orders.

Our League staff *immediately* zeroed in on pandemic information by adding a COVID-19 resource links page to the ALM website offering guidance from state and national sources as well as often daily updates from the Governor, State Health Officer, AG's office and others. The League's social media platforms have been regularly posting updates on Alabama's fight against the pandemic and ALM's efforts to be a leader in those endeavors.

In our hometowns, we continued to lead. Because *that's what we do*.

*Every* day, regardless of circumstances, our cities and towns are expected to provide essential services to our citizens. From infrastructure to public safety, there is never a day off.

Municipalities don't shut down. It's not an option. Police, Fire and EMT continue to serve our citizens. Water and sewer remain a priority. Streets and sidewalks are maintained.

Since March 2020, when our professions and services were thrown into chaos, municipal leaders and employees persevered. Our cities and towns demonstrated incredible

resilience. Our employees are the unsung champions who stayed the course.

EVERY DAY throughout this pandemic – regardless of civil unrest, the changing political landscape or the stress caused by social distancing and other safety measures – *we lead*.

Municipal officials understand that local government is the framework that supports and protects our cities and towns. Planning for and overcoming a variety of challenges, including weather-related disasters, is integral to the role of every elected official and municipal employee. COVID-19, however, was – and continues to be – a viral storm unlike anything any state or community has experienced.

Government at every level has had to improvise as each day presented uncharted territory punctuated by economic and human distress. Limitations on municipal powers and reliance on state directives, which were often attained from information based on battling an unknown foe, further complicated the individual and collective pandemic experience.

And yet, we in this room have led – and continue to lead – as servant leaders, often charged with making complicated and difficult decisions in the best interest of our communities.

We stay the course.

We set the example.

We may not always be right, but we are always available.

*We persevere*.

When we review all the challenges we have faced – and continue to face – it has been of great comfort to me, as I am sure it has been to all of you, that our League of Municipalities has been with us through every setback and every success – ensuring that our cities and towns remain viable and that we are able to provide the quality-of-life services our citizens not only expect but demand.

Winston Churchill once said: *If you're going through hell, keep going*. Well, folks, that is exactly what we intend to do: keep going.

Make the difficult decisions.

Set the example.

Persevere.

Be triumphant.

Since March 2020 there have been 23 supplemental emergency proclamations extending some form of the State's Safer at Home Order. After the statewide mask mandate was lifted on April 9th, municipal officials had to decide how best to proceed in their individual

communities. We have been able to do that with the guidance and support of the League, which is always vigilant on our behalf.

Also since March of last year, Alabama has received two federal fiscal relief packages – first in the form of the CARES Act tied directly to mitigating the sudden financial impact of COVID-19 – and now through the American Rescue Plan Act, which will send \$779 million dollars *directly* to Alabama’s cities and towns and can be used for items beyond pandemic relief, such as water, sewer and broadband infrastructure improvements – quality of life legacy investments that could be invaluable for the future of our municipalities.

And as we carefully deliberate on how to best direct this revolutionary opportunity for our cities and towns, our League will continue to research best practices and offer guidance for ensuring that we adhere to mandatory

federal regulations, deadlines and legal frameworks.

Whatever challenges we are faced with throughout the remainder of 2021, I leave you with this quote by Alabama’s own Helen Keller:

*Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.*

Thank you for your leadership and service to your communities.

Thank you for entrusting me with the honor of presiding over our exceptional organization, particularly during such an uncertain time.

I am grateful and I know we will continue to persevere. ■



2020-2021 League President Mayor Leigh Dollar of Guntersville with her City Council at the 2021 ALM Convention in Huntsville.

# 2021 Conference Sponsors, Break Sponsors and EXPO Exhibitors

The League thanks the following Conference Sponsors:



RAYMOND JAMES

STIFEL



The League thanks the following Break Sponsors:



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 Knowles & Sullivan, LLC Attorneys at Law • Lanier Ford Shaver & Payne P.C.  
 OrthoSports Associates LLC • Thames Batré • TherapySouth • Vona

The League also thanks our EXPO Exhibitors:

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.  
 Alabama 811  
 Alabama Association of Regional Councils  
 Alabama Attorney General's Consumer Affairs Office  
 Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition  
 Alabama Correctional Industries  
 Alabama Dept. of Agriculture & Industries  
 Alabama Dept. of Environmental Management (ADEM)  
 Alabama Department of Revenue  
 Alabama Emergency Management Agency  
 Alabama First Responders Benefits Program (ALFRBP)

Alabama Forestry Commission  
 Alabama Industries For The Blind  
 Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association  
 Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation (AMFund)  
 Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC)  
 Alabama Municipal Revenue Officers Association  
 Alabama Power  
 Alabama Public Library Service  
 Alabama Recreation and Parks Association  
 Alabama State Parks  
 Alabama Tourism Department



American Fidelity  
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 Bandit Industries, Inc.  
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 BIS Digital, Inc.  
 C Spire  
 Cardiac Solutions  
 Carr, Riggs & Ingram CPAs  
 and Advisors  
 CDG Engineers & Associates, Inc.  
 Civil Southeast LLC  
 Clear Winds Technologies  
 ClearWater Solutions  
 CMH Architects  
 CNI Solutions  
 Columbia Southern University

Converged Networks, Inc.  
 Corporate Pharmacy Services, Inc.  
 Corrective Asphalt Materials, LLC  
 Croy Engineering  
 CSA Software Solutions  
 Daylight Capital Advisors, LLC  
 Dixie Decorations, Inc.  
 Edmunds GovTech  
 Goodwyn Mills Cawood  
 GoRescue Brands, Inc.  
 GovDeals, Inc.  
 Grasshopper Company  
 Great Southern Recreation  
 Harris Local Government  
 Hill Hill Carter Franco Cole & Black, P.C.  
 InCare Technologies  
 Ingram Equipment Company  
 Innovative Architectural Planners  
 Joy to Life Foundation  
 Jubilee Decor, LLC  
 K&K Systems, Inc.  
 Living Water Services  
 Local Government Health Insurance Board  
 Main Street Alabama  
 Municipal Intercept Services, LLC (MIS)  
 Municipal Workers Compensation Fund (MWCF)  
 Musco Sports Lighting  
 NAFECO  
 OneAppWay





Outdoor Aluminum, Inc.  
 Pet and Playground  
 Playworld Preferred, Inc.  
 Precision Concrete Cutting, LLC  
 Provident  
 RAVUS Cyber, LLC  
 Raymond James  
 Red Bud Supply  
 Retail Strategies  
 Retirement Systems of Alabama  
 Rimkus Consulting Group  
 Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.  
 Southeast Cement Promotion Association  
 State Auditor  
 Struthers Recreation  
 Sunbelt Fire, Inc.  
 Sweeping Corporation of America  
 Synergetics  
 The Frazer Lanier Company, Inc.  
 The Kelley Group  
 The World Games 2022  
 ThePublicInformationApp.com



Thompson Tractor Co., Inc.  
 Tristatz  
 Truckworx Kenworth  
 Tuscaloosa Tourism and Sports  
 Twin States Recreation, LLC  
 United Bank Community Development  
 VC3  
 WAS Design, Inc.  
 WaveFly





# 2021 CMO TRAINING

## 2021 Certified Municipal Official Program Training Calendar

January - December: Anytime Training (<https://almonline.org/AnytimeTraining.aspx>)

### June - July Regional Training

Montgomery, Alabaster, Athens, Guntersville, Montgomery, Orange Beach

### August

Congressional In-State Luncheons (Details to follow)

### November 1st - 3rd

Municipal Leadership Institute / CMO Graduation, Montgomery, AL

### November

NLC City Summit \* ([www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org))

Registration is limited. Visit [www.almonline.org](http://www.almonline.org) for training and registration information.

*Any municipal official or employee may register for these events, but only elected officials will be awarded credit hours in the Certified Municipal Official Program. \*CMO credit hours awarded for in-person attendance.*

Your internet service provider may be blocking emails from the League

By Chuck Stephenson • Director of Information Technology • ALM

As many of you know, ALM recently changed our website and email addresses from [alalm.org](http://alalm.org) to [almonline.org](http://almonline.org). As a result of this change, a handful of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been treating emails from the League’s new domain as SPAM and blocking them. Our IT Team has worked with Microsoft and determined that this is occurring because the individual ISPs, out of an abundance of caution, are blocking League emails. Regrettably, this is not something the League can fix for you. There are numerous reasons the ISPs are doing this, and most of them are done because of algorithms that neither you nor the League have any control over. Keep in mind, they do this to protect you and your data. Unfortunately, sometimes their efforts filter out legitimate emails – as we are finding is the case with League emails by several service providers. Fortunately, there is something *you* can do to ensure you receive League emails.

### Whitelist the League’s Domain with Your Service Provider

You will need to contact your service provider directly. Be aware, however, that if you ask your ISP to fix this issue for you, their response will likely be: “We don’t actively block any emails.” (Which means you probably won’t receive much help resolving the issue.) Therefore, you will need to be more specific with your request. Ask them to help you log into the portal website and “whitelist” the League’s domain, [almonline.org](http://almonline.org), which should resolve your issue. Please note that the portal website is the site where you most likely pay your bill and is *not* Outlook or the app on your phone where you receive your email. ■



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