

# The Alabama Municipal JOURNAL

September 2011

Volume 69, Number 3

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CMO Graduates



2011 Basic  
CMO Graduates



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# The Alabama Municipal JOURNAL

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## On the Cover:

2011 CMO Commencement Ceremonies were held on August 18 in Montgomery marking the 16th graduating class of elected officials to receive the CMO designation and the 13th graduating class to receive Advanced certification.

**Congratulations, graduates!**

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# A Message from the Editor

Ahhh ... September! That much anticipated time of year when the humidity begins to recede ever so slightly; children are back in school; and football supersedes everything but Mother Nature. This year, however, September does more than signify the start of tailgating season; it extols the incredible efforts of Alabama's municipalities – in conjunction with county, state and federal agencies as well as thousands of volunteers – to rebuild and revitalize the communities devastated during the unprecedented April 27<sup>th</sup> tornado outbreak, what has become the state's costliest natural disaster. Yes, after an especially difficult and challenging spring followed by an unusually oppressive summer, I'm sure our entire League family is more than ready for fall – and the opportunity to cheer for our favorite home teams: Alabama's cities and towns.



*Carrie with Sue Glidewell, former mayor of Rainbow City and ALM past president, during the 2011 Convention in Huntsville.*

## 2012 Quality of Life Awards Deadline November 4

It's time to start compiling your entries for the League's 2012 Quality of Life Awards. **The deadline is November 4<sup>th</sup>.** The 2012 Call for Entries has been posted on the League's website at [www.alalm.org](http://www.alalm.org). Simply click on the link from the homepage (you can't miss it) and print the information. **NOTE:** Call for Entries will **NOT** be mailed this year; instead, we will run the rules and entry form in next month's *Journal*. However, the quickest and easiest way to get your copy of the Call for Entries is via the website – which is available now. The Quality of Life Awards program was designed to recognize successful, innovative municipal projects that improve the quality of life for citizens and add value to the community by establishing partnerships and building community support. Winners for the three population categories will be featured in a video shown at the League's 2012 annual convention in Birmingham in May. Municipalities that have won a Quality of Life Award in the past three years are not eligible for entry. (This does not apply to Honorable Mentions.) All other League member municipalities are eligible to enter. Start putting your entries together now! If you have questions about this program, please feel free to contact me at [carrieb@alalm.org](mailto:carrieb@alalm.org).



*On August 1st, the Town of Hackleburg learned that VF Corp will rebuild its Wrangler Distribution Center that was destroyed by the April 27th EF-5 tornado. Hackleburg, which lost most of its infrastructure and many of its businesses that fateful day, will now retain the original 150 Wrangler facility jobs as well as an additional 50 positions VIP Corp plans to add – a tremendous asset as the community rebuilds.*

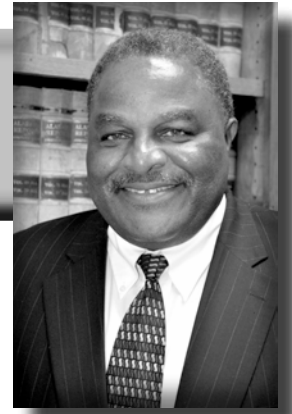
## Submit Your Municipal Photos!

The Alabama League of Municipalities is no longer holding a Municipal Photo Contest, but we are seeking photos for possible use on our website and in our publications. **Spotlight your municipality by sending us your photos!** Photos must be of an Alabama city or town and follow a municipal theme: municipal buildings, parks, street scenes, downtowns,

*continued on page 11*

# The President's Report

Councilmember Thomas O. Moore • Demopolis



## 16th CMO Graduation Ceremony Held August 18th

On August 18, the League held commencement ceremonies in Montgomery for its Certified Municipal Officials (CMO) Training Program. These graduation exercises marked the 16<sup>th</sup> group of officials to receive their basic CMO certification and the 13<sup>th</sup> group to receive their advanced CMO certification. My congratulations to all the graduates! I'm a firm believer in the League's CMO program, and this special ceremony further signifies the commitment of Alabama's elected officials to their communities. The program is designed to guide and support municipal officials in carrying out their elected duties efficiently and effectively.

The League established the Certified Municipal Officials Training Program in 1994. It consists of a series of one-day continuing education programs designed for elected municipal officials – mayors and councilmembers – who voluntarily wish to receive formal training in municipal government. Officials who complete 40 credit hours of training are awarded the professional designation of Certified Municipal Official. Training sessions are generally conducted twice each year at four regional sites throughout the state. Additional hours may be earned by attending designated sessions during the annual League Convention and other approved events sponsored by the League and the National League of Cities. A limited amount of credit may be obtained by attending other approved courses. The training program can be completed in as few as two calendar years.

The Elected Officials Training Program is an ongoing project of the League to fulfill the education mandate contained in its constitution. The first session of the Elected Officials Training Program was held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Mobile on September 22, 1994. The same program was offered in Birmingham, Montgomery and Huntsville. Nearly 200 officials enrolled in the program during the first sessions. As of this year, more than 3,400 municipal officials are enrolled and have attended one or more courses.

Session topics include council meeting procedure, rules of parliamentary procedure, the Open Meetings Act, public records, ordinance drafting, powers of municipalities, ethics laws, conflicts of interests, duties of mayors and councilmembers, tort liability, annexation, zoning, subdivision regulation, municipal revenues and expenditures, the competitive bid law, personnel issues, insurance issues and regulatory powers of municipalities.

In 1998, the League added an Advanced CMO Program for those officials who had received the CMO designation and desired additional training. During its January 2000 meeting, the League's Executive Committee approved the addition of a continuing education requirement to the Program. The committee members felt the new requirement would strengthen the CMO Program. As of Jan. 1, 2000, each Advanced CMO Graduate is required to earn ten (10) credit hours of approved training within two (2) calendar years to maintain their Advanced CMO active status. Any CMO Advanced Graduate who does not earn at least ten (10) approved credit hours of training within two (2) calendar years will have their Advanced CMO status designated as "inactive" until such time as the required ten (10) hours of approved credit is earned. The continuing education credits started at the 2000 Convention in Birmingham.

This year, a total of 74 municipal officials successfully completed the requirements to receive their CMO certification and 32 officials received their Advanced CMO certification. Perry C. Roquemore, Jr., who served as the League's executive director for 25 years before retiring this past May, addressed the graduates at this year's ceremony. The 2011 graduating class of Certified Municipal Officials is listed on pages 22 and 23. ***Congratulations!*** ■

For more information on the League's CMO Program, visit: [www.alalm.org/CMOPage.html](http://www.alalm.org/CMOPage.html)



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- Judge  
Alabama Court

### Benefiting the Defendants...

"JCS has helped me understand the bad decisions I have made in my life. Through their guidance I have been given a chance to start over."

- Emma G., Defendant  
Florida State Court

"...thank you for getting me into a treatment program. I'm loving my sobriety. It's a wonderful life. It does work One Day At A Time."

- Danny B., Defendant  
Marshall County, Alabama

"Thank you for everything. Even though you did not have to do it, you did it anyway and it was much appreciated. You kept me out of jail."

- Craig A., Defendant  
Foley, Alabama

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# Municipal Overview

Ken Smith • Executive Director



## Are You a Facilitator, a Rubber Stamper or a Roadblock?

**W**ebster defines a “Facilitator” as someone who brings about an outcome. This is a person who helps a group of people understand their common objectives and assists them to plan to achieve them.

A “Rubberstamper” is someone who essentially approves every action of the body, someone who doesn’t truly contribute to an outcome but instead simply has a ministerial role in achieving that outcome, usually by voting.

A “Roadblocker” is someone who stands in the way of the outcome. This is a person who feels that decisions have to go through them. No decision is too minor that it should be taken without their input – and usually without them having the last word.

These three roles could be defined as the Good, the Bad and the Ugly. Everyone who serves on a board, including a municipal council, serves in one of these roles. The goal, of course, is to have all councilmembers serving as facilitators, helping to move meetings along, contributing worthy advice when they have pertinent information to add, but not preventing council action just to show the power they possess.

Which one are you? And how can you be sure that you are assisting the entity you serve rather than standing in the way or simply filling a seat?

One of my honors as Executive Director is to serve on the board of the Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE). This fine organization assists participating communities in planning and preparing for a more vibrant future. At a recent board meeting, board members received a list of suggestions for proper board member participation. The list is applicable to any board. I thought I’d use this month’s column to provide readers with this list – and a few suggestions of my own – and my thoughts regarding each item.

### **Understand that we’re all working toward the same goal.**

This particular statement doesn’t mean that everyone agrees on exactly what the goal is, or even how to obtain it. Rather, it recognizes that there is a specific reason the entity the members serve exists, and that goal should be to serve the needs of that entity.

Of course, reasonable people will and should differ as to the objective of the entity they serve. In the case of a municipality, are you trying to increase population? Build infrastructure? Attract new business? All of these (and many, many more) are legitimate reasons for serving on a municipal council.

Instead, this suggestion recognizes that despite differences of opinion, each of us should respect the views of others, even if they differ. For example, one councilmember may think that enacting a new zoning ordinance is vital to encourage proper growth of the municipality while another opposes the ordinance on the grounds that it interferes with individual use of property.

This difference of opinion does not mean that they are not working toward the same goal. They just have a difference of opinion as to how to obtain that goal. Hopefully, members of a municipal governing body ran for office with the same purpose in mind – helping their municipality and community become the best it can be.

Reaching this objective will mean different things to different people. We have to work together, compromising where necessary, to achieve our own particular objectives that help us obtain the ultimate goal. Which brings us to a couple of related thoughts.

### **Feel free to raise an issue or concern. Your opinion matters. Value the contributions of all members, including your own.**

Municipal councils determine their course of action by a vote of the members. Not all entities function this way, of course. The President’s cabinet members may express their views, but ultimately, the President alone makes the decisions. Sometimes he follows the views of cabinet members, sometimes he ignores their input entirely. Cabinet members have no right to complain if the President refuses to even ask for their input. Members who feel that they are being ignored or ineffective have little recourse and often resign.

A municipal council functions differently. Each member must be free to express his or her own view in order to reach consensus. Too often, people refuse to listen to the comments of others because they disagree. Just as often, others are simply too timid to express themselves. Each member has an obligation to comment on matters of public concern before the body. Those who refuse to allow them to speak do themselves and the public that elected them a disservice. Similarly, councilmembers who don't feel comfortable speaking cheat the public of their valuable input.

**Don't take opinions that differ personally, but instead respect and learn from these differences of opinion.**

It is no exaggeration to suggest that this should be the first item on the list. We sometimes have difficulty recognizing that others have views that differ from our own. Once we adopt a position and passionately support it, any opposition can seem personal to us. After all, if my position or suggestion is correct, the only reason someone could differ must be personal, right?

Wrong. Each of us brings our own experiences, opinions and, yes, preconceived notions, to any discussion. Persons disagreeing with you may be basing their opinions on incorrect assumptions or information. In that case, logical questioning may correct those misconceptions. On the other hand, your opinion may be faulty. Examine the opposing view to see if it has merit. You may change your mind or a discussion over the difference of opinion may lead you to a compromise position that is better than either of you started with.

It is also important to remember that no one knows everything, not even you. In a council, the majority view wins. The council acts as a body, not as a group of individuals, and by agreeing to serve, you have agreed to accept the views of the body. Which leads to the next thought.

**Agree to disagree. Once a board decision has been made, commit to it.**

Commit to support council decisions even if they aren't yours. In fact, supporting a decision can be especially important when you disagree with it. It is the action of the body you were elected to represent. Attacking it outside the meeting rarely accomplishes anything constructive. And when you doubt this advice, see guideline # 3.

Individuals who refuse to support group decisions can be astoundingly destructive. This encourages others to attack the entity and its decisions. An individual member may start to see himself or herself as a loner and start working at cross purposes to the good of the council. This can undermine an otherwise functioning entity.

Members should examine themselves and their motives. If they continue to oppose a decision after it has been made,

are they truly acting in the best interests of the body? Or are they so committed to their own notions and goals that they simply cannot accept that others could reach a different conclusion? And if you are consistently taking positions that differ from those made by the body, perhaps it is time to listen more closely to the views others express at meetings.

**Ask informed questions. Come prepared to meetings and hold each other accountable.**

Learn about issues facing your municipality, then ask questions to learn more. And if you are unclear what issue is being discussed, ask questions to find out. It is important that you understand what decisions are on the table.

Few things side-track a meeting more than diversions onto paths that don't relate to the issue at hand. While it is true that there are no stupid questions, try to keep your questions relevant. When this happens, other members should find ways to gently move the discussion back onto the issue. Notice that I said "gently." Don't attack other members when they don't seem to understand the exact nature of the discussion. After all, the reason a member is confused may be because of the way you've expressed yourself.

**Don't talk just to hear yourself speak.**

There are two aspects to this advice. First, don't ramble. Try to keep your comments succinct and, as indicated above, on point.

The second aspect has long been a source of complaint about meetings, but may be even more of an issue in this day of social media and interactive communication. It has never been as easy as it is today to express a viewpoint to vast numbers of people. Some social commentators have suggested that this may lead some to feel that they have to try to demonstrate their expertise on every subject, or voice an opinion on every subject. As Abraham Lincoln once said, it is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than open your mouth and remove all doubt.

This may seem to contradict the advice above about expressing your view. You should feel free to express yourself, but don't express yourself for the sole goal of making sure you've had your say. Comments should be succinct as well as relevant. And if someone else has already made your point, it may be sufficient to simply say "I agree."

**Seek additional information or background before presenting opinion as fact.**

Presumptions and assumptions are dangerous. Much more often than any of us care to admit, we present information as fact that is based on nothing more than conclusions we've drawn without a thorough investigation. As noted above, there is nothing wrong with asking questions to seek additional information. Seeking information is part

*continued on page 19*





# The Legal Viewpoint

By Lori Lein  
General Counsel



## 2012 Municipal Elections - What You Need to Know Now

**M**unicipal elections for most Alabama municipalities will be held on August 28, 2012. The municipal election cycle begins in earnest when candidates start qualifying on July 3, 2012. There are, of course, several deadlines municipalities must meet before that date. These are indicated on the municipal elections calendar and discussed in detail in the municipal elections manual the League will provide this fall.

Beyond that, though, there are several practical steps municipal clerks and officials should consider taking to be prepared for the rush of activity that lies ahead. This article discusses actions municipalities should be considering before next year's election cycle.

### Changes to Municipal Boundaries

Municipalities generally annex territory through one of three methods – unanimous consent, by election, or through the legislature. Municipal councils and the legislature can deannex territory from the municipal corporate limits. Any changes to your city or town limits that have occurred in the past four years can impact next year's election.

Each time the corporate limits are adjusted, the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., must issue final approval through a procedure ironically called "pre-clearance." Despite the name, the Justice Department will not consider applications until it is final under to state law. No annexation or deannexation is considered final until the Justice Department approves. Until that step is taken, residents in these areas cannot vote in the municipal election, nor can they run for office. *Singer v. City of Alabaster*, 821 So.2d 954 (Ala. 2001).

The Justice Department has 60 days to consider an application for preclearance. If they request additional information to determine whether to preclear the annexation or deannexation, the 60 day process starts again. If a municipality adjusts its corporate limits within 60 days of the election, it faces the prospect that it will not receive preclearance in time for the election. Residents in these

areas will not be added to your voters list and can only vote by provisional ballot.

### What should you do now? Two things:

First, double check to make sure that all prior annexations and deannexations have been precleared. This step is often overlooked and can reek havoc on your election.

Second, don't annex or deannex territory within 60 days of the election. Even better, stop annexing territory before that time. The earlier the council makes a determination not to adjust the corporate limits, the more likely it is that all adjustments will have been precleared and all municipal residents can participate in the election.

### Voter Districting

Just as with adjustments to the municipal limits, municipalities sometimes need to adjust their districts lines because the populations in the districts are no longer sufficiently even in number. Municipal districts should be relatively equal in population. One of the basic tenets of democracy is that each person's vote should count just as much as those cast by other voters and having the districts equal in population means that all voters (and the districts they represent) have the same representational strength.

Deviations in district population can occur for several reasons. For example, annexing or deannexing can cause population shifts. Or, perhaps new residents have located more heavily in one district than in others, or current residents may just move from one district to another. Any of these may cause the population to swing wildly in one or more districts.

Although there is no hard-and-fast rule that can be applied to determine when the population deviations would require redistricting, if the population of the largest district and the smallest districts vary more than five percent, you should examine more closely whether you need to redistrict. The more deviation there is, the more likely you should adjust your district lines.

Just like changes to your corporate limits, any district changes must be pre-cleared by the Department of Justice.

### **Help Is On the Way**

The city clerk should prepare a list of those he or she may need to contact for help during the election. A short list might include other clerks, the Secretary of State, the probate judge, the board of registrars, the Attorney General's Office, your election equipment supplier, and the League of Municipalities. Each of these agencies can help answer questions regarding election procedures.

For example, other municipal clerks—especially those who have held elections before—are a tremendous source of practical information about addressing issues as they arise. The clerk should make a list of clerks he or she feels comfortable contacting and asking for advice. Of course, common courtesy requires that the clerk should contact them ahead of time and ask if it is alright to ask for advice. And, remember—turn-about is fair play. If other clerks are making themselves available, you should make yourself available as well.

The county board of registrars can help answer questions related to provisional voting and voter registration, including the voter's lists each municipality must prepare. The probate judge, having conducted elections using the type election equipment your municipality will use and having followed provisional balloting, can offer suggestions and answer questions in these areas. Again, contact their offices and ask if they will be willing to help you prepare for your election.

Your election supplier—which may be the county or a private group such as Election Systems and Software (ESS)—can address questions related to the equipment you will be using during the election. And, of course, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General and the League can help answer general election questions.

### **Helping us Help You**

You can help save yourself time and confusion by taking several steps before contacting any of the above agencies or individuals. This advice can be followed not only during the election process, but at all times when you seek help.

First, think your question through. Doing a little homework before calling will allow you to address potential questions that may arise when you ask for assistance. Remember that the person you're calling often comes into a situation knowing very little about it. Don't assume that they know facts. Take time, before calling, to identify and document the pertinent facts, and to identify what you think the important issues and concerns are.

This is especially true where e-mail is concerned. If you are going to contact someone by e-mail it is important to include all factors that you think may be significant. E-mail

doesn't provide the same give and take that a telephone call has, so the person providing the advice may not know what questions to ask to elicit information.

Of course, it is also important not to weigh the question down with unnecessary facts and information. Wean your question down to what you think are the pertinent points.

Second, call early rather than later. While this may seem to contradict the advice above, it doesn't. Make sure you know what your question is and the pertinent information before asking for help, if at all possible, but don't delay in requesting help until a situation has gotten out of hand. Often, issues that are easy to solve early can become major disasters if they aren't dealt with. And remember, in almost all cases, it is better to call before acting rather than after.

Third, don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't understand the advice that's being given or it doesn't seem to make sense. You may have left out a fact assuming that the person you're calling knew it so that the answer you received didn't actually fit your situation. Or, the person you're calling may not understand the question. By asking questions yourself, you can be certain that the question is being answered in the best manner possible.

Fourth, don't fish for an answer, and don't slant the facts so that they will elicit only the answer you're seeking. You may not always get the answer you want, or that you think is correct. If you feel that the person you are asking for information is wrong, explain why you think so. It may be that you are correct. On the other hand, if you receive two different answers from two different sources, how will you know which is correct?

Fifth, don't call and put the person on speaker phone so others can hear without first asking permission. Not only is this rude, the person you're calling may need to obtain more information before responding. No one likes to be embarrassed in public. Or, you may find that you expect one answer, only to find that you're the one who is embarrassed by receiving a different response.

Finally, understand that some legal issues require research, and that not all questions can be answered with immediately or with absolute certainty. Sometimes, legal questions have never been addressed by the courts, the legislature, the Attorney General, or Secretary of State's offices. It may be that the answer just isn't certain, even once the issue is researched. In that case, you may have to accept that the answer you receive is, simply, an educated guess.

### **Elections Packets**

Many municipal clerks find it helpful to provide candidates with an elections packet when they qualify to run for office. Now is the time to create this packet. What information should you include in the packet? Here's a suggested list:

*continued on page 12*

# Message from the Editor continued from page 4

city festivals, etc. Photos do not have to be taken by a professional photographer; however, they must be submitted on a CD or emailed as a high resolution JPEG or TIFF file. (High resolution files are necessary for print quality purposes.) Each entry must include a photo description as well as photographer's name and contact information. For more information, see page 26 or contact Karl Franklin at [karlf@alalm.org](mailto:karlf@alalm.org).

## Policy Committees

Last month the League held its annual policy meetings for its five standing committees: Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR); Community and Economic Development (CED); Energy, Environment and Natural Resources (EENR); Transportation, Public Safety and Communications (TPSC); and Human Development (HD). The minutes from those meetings will be published in the October issue of the *Journal* and the Proposed Policies and Goals will be available via the League's website at [www.alalm.org](http://www.alalm.org) later this month. We appreciate the efforts of our municipal officials serving on these important policy committees and thank each of you for taking time out of your schedules to attend the meetings last month.

## Tree Recovery Campaign Launched by the Alabama Forestry Commission

The Alabama Forestry Commission, in collaboration with the Arbor Day Foundation, has launched the Alabama Tree Recovery Campaign to bring trees to communities throughout the state's tornado-damaged areas (see page 15 for details). Trees will be distributed February 2012. Communities interested in receiving trees should contact Matt McCollough, State Urban Forestry Coordinator with the Alabama Forestry Commission at [Urban.Forestry@forestry.alabama.gov](mailto:Urban.Forestry@forestry.alabama.gov) or 334-240-9360.

## Congratulations CMO Graduates!

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, the League recognized 106 CMO graduates – 74 Basic and 32 Advanced – at its annual commencement ceremony in Montgomery. Individual graduate pictures will be available for downloading later this month via the League's website at [www.alalm.org](http://www.alalm.org). CMO Administrator Cindy Price will notify graduates when the photos are ready as well as send instructions on how to download the images. For questions regarding the League's CMO program, you can contact Cindy at [cindyp@alalm.org](mailto:cindyp@alalm.org) or 334-262-2566.

In closing, I want to congratulate Becky Leavings, City Clerk for the City of Vestavia Hills, for being named Alabama's City Clerk of the Year and Sam Gaston, Mountain Brook City Manager, who will be installed as 2011-2012 President of the International City-County Management Association (ICMA) during IMCA's annual conference on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Well done! ■

Carrie

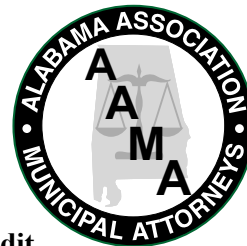
# 2011

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**All topics have been submitted to the Alabama State Bar for CLE approval, and Alabama Judicial College for Judicial Education credit.**



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- A Statement of Economic Interests and Ethics Commission information
- The 2012 Municipal Elections Calendar
- Copies of any local ordinances regarding advertising and campaigning
- Information about the appointment and duties of poll watchers

You may have other information you feel candidates should receive. Be certain, of course, to provide the same information to all candidates. Also, it is a good idea to have them sign a form indicating the receipt of this packet, showing the date it was received. The clerk should keep the original signed copy in a safe place at city hall.

### Voting Places and Officials

This is also the time to verify that officials that have previously served during the election are still willing to do so. If not, you will need to begin identifying individuals who

are willing to serve during the election. You don't want to get to the deadline for appointing this folks only to find out they are no longer available.

You should also check to see if the polling places you plan to use will be available. Some of the election dates have changed from four years ago. It's possible that the owner of a polling place you've used in the past is basing his or her availability on the 2008 election dates, and not the 2012 dates. It is also possible that the owner simply doesn't want the municipality to hold an election at the polling place.

Be certain that the location will be available and if not, find a new location.

And remember, the new location will have to be precleared by the Justice Department.

### Conclusion

Deadlines for the 2012 elections begin in February 2012. The League will have an elections calendar and manual ready before November 2011 and will begin elections training in earnest around that time. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the League Legal Department for further information. ■

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# Monsters from the Sky:

## What Happened Next

Carrie Banks • ALM Communications Director  
*compiled from FEMA and EMA press releases and news reports*

Nearly five months after an unprecedented super tornado outbreak devastated the northern two-thirds of Alabama, statistics are still being compiled by FEMA and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (EMA) on the state's worst natural disaster.

On April 27, 2011, Alabama hosted an unusual yet perfect set of weather conditions that produced 62 (down from 67) confirmed tornadoes beginning well before dawn until late that night. According to state officials, these monster storms, which included seven EF-3, eight EF-4 and three EF-5 goliaths, ravaged the state in two waves and were responsible for 247 deaths. The first tornado hit Waterloo in the northwest corner of the state at 4 a.m. The last was reported at 9:48 p.m. in Verbena, in west central Alabama. The twisters tracked across 1,207 miles as they hurled through the state.



The American Red Cross estimated that more than 23,553 homes were damaged or destroyed and the National Weather Service's Birmingham Weather Forecast Office logged 145 storm-related reports.

Alabama's State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Clanton was staffed and prepared for severe weather on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Immediately following the outbreak, Gov. Robert Bentley declared a state of emergency and mobilized 1,400 National Guard troops to help with search and rescue, to provide logistical coordination of debris removal and to assist with law enforcement. Within 24 hours, he requested President Obama declare an expedited major disaster for Alabama. The President immediately fulfilled that request, freeing up funding and federal resources to support the

state. On April 28, Gov. Bentley opened the 2-1-1 Connects Alabama call center to register disaster volunteers and on April 29 he deployed 35 mutual aid teams to disaster areas to provide medical aid and assist with search and rescue. That same day he opened a recovery response call center where survivors could obtain information and resources. Almost 120,000 volunteers registered at volunteer reception centers throughout the state and provided more than 152,000 volunteer hours.

In North Alabama, the tornadoes left nearly 850,000

homes and businesses without power and damaged more than 90 large transmission lines. Electricity was restored for most distributor customers within a week, but repairing the transmission system in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee took until July. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) estimated that storm-related structural repairs cost \$39 million,

including \$29 million in capitalized expenditures and \$10 million in operating and maintenance spending. TVA also spent \$95 million on replacement power until the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant and two units at Widows Creek Fossil Plant were reconnected to the grid in late May and early June. Alabama Power estimates \$200 million in damage – more than Hurricanes Ivan, Katrina and Dennis combined. About 900 miles of wire was toppled, 318 substations damaged or destroyed and 7,600 poles downed.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mobilized immediately. Many FEMA staff used the EOC as a base for their operations. By April 29<sup>th</sup>, 10 truckloads of generators for essential services, such as hospitals, were en route to Alabama. An Incident Support Base was

established at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery from which supplies were distributed. Tractor trailers transported approximately 712,800 liters of water, 30,800 tarps, 304,416 ready-to-eat meals and another 108 generators to Maxwell. The Red Cross immediately opened 13 public shelters for those who needed a safe place to go. An additional three shelters were running by the end of April.

Initially, 10 counties were designated for FEMA assistance. Ultimately, 43 counties were designated for Individual Assistance, such as housing assistance, emergency unemployment and funeral funding. All 67 counties were eligible for Public Assistance to reimburse local communities for 75 percent of debris removal and emergency response measure costs. In the end, FEMA opened a total of 49 Disaster Recovery Centers that served nearly 87,000 individuals and households. At the centers, storm survivors received information on FEMA registration and the disaster assistance process.

The first group deployed to Alabama was a support team that provided communications, logistics and operational support to state officials. At peak operations, more than 1,000 FEMA employees traveled from across the U.S. to Alabama. FEMA hired more than 100 local staff for recovery efforts and to assist in economic recovery. FEMA's Private Sector Division worked with businesses and enterprises of all sizes providing a connection to the government's recovery operations. Through this partnership, businesses learned what role they can play in community recovery while providing the state and FEMA with another communications channel for disseminating recovery information to survivors.

According to FEMA, as of the first week in August, 88,000 individuals and households had registered for federal assistance; more than 8,000 households had received rental assistance; and \$149 million in grants and loans had

been provided to individuals, households and businesses – including more than \$67 million in grants by FEMA and \$82 million in Small Business Administration loans. Nine communities – Cordova, Hackleburg, Holt, Phil Campbell, Pleasant Grove, Pratt City, Rainsville, Sipsey and Tuscaloosa – had formally requested long-term recovery help.

As of August 10, Alabama EMA reported that a total of 9,313,450 cubic yards of debris had been removed (92 percent of the estimated total) and that seven inspectors were in the field with 49,885 inspections returned out of 49,916 issued for 99.9 percent completion.

According to state school officials, storm damage displaced 3,350

students. Hackleburg's two schools, as well as schools in Phil Campbell and Plainview, were among six schools completely destroyed in the April 27 tornado outbreak. The others were Alberta Elementary and University Place Elementary/

Middle School in Tuscaloosa's city school system. Some schools reopened for the school year at other campuses and many started classes in temporary modular or mobile classrooms.

Although it will take years for Alabama's communities to recover from the monsters Mother Nature unleashed on April 27<sup>th</sup>, progress is made with each passing week. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the Town of Hackleburg learned that VF Corp will rebuild its destroyed Wrangler Distribution Center, something many local officials believe is essential for the municipality to recover. Hackleburg, which lost most of its infrastructure and many of its businesses on April 27<sup>th</sup>, will now retain the original 150 Wrangler facility jobs as well as an

additional 50 positions VIP Corp plans to add for a total of 200 employees. ■

***For additional storm and recovery related information, visit [adeca.alabama.gov/LTCR](http://adeca.alabama.gov/LTCR); [fema.gov](http://fema.gov); and [ema.alabama.gov](http://ema.alabama.gov).***



## Alabama Forestry Commission Launches Alabama Tree Recovery Campaign for Communities Struck by Tornadoes

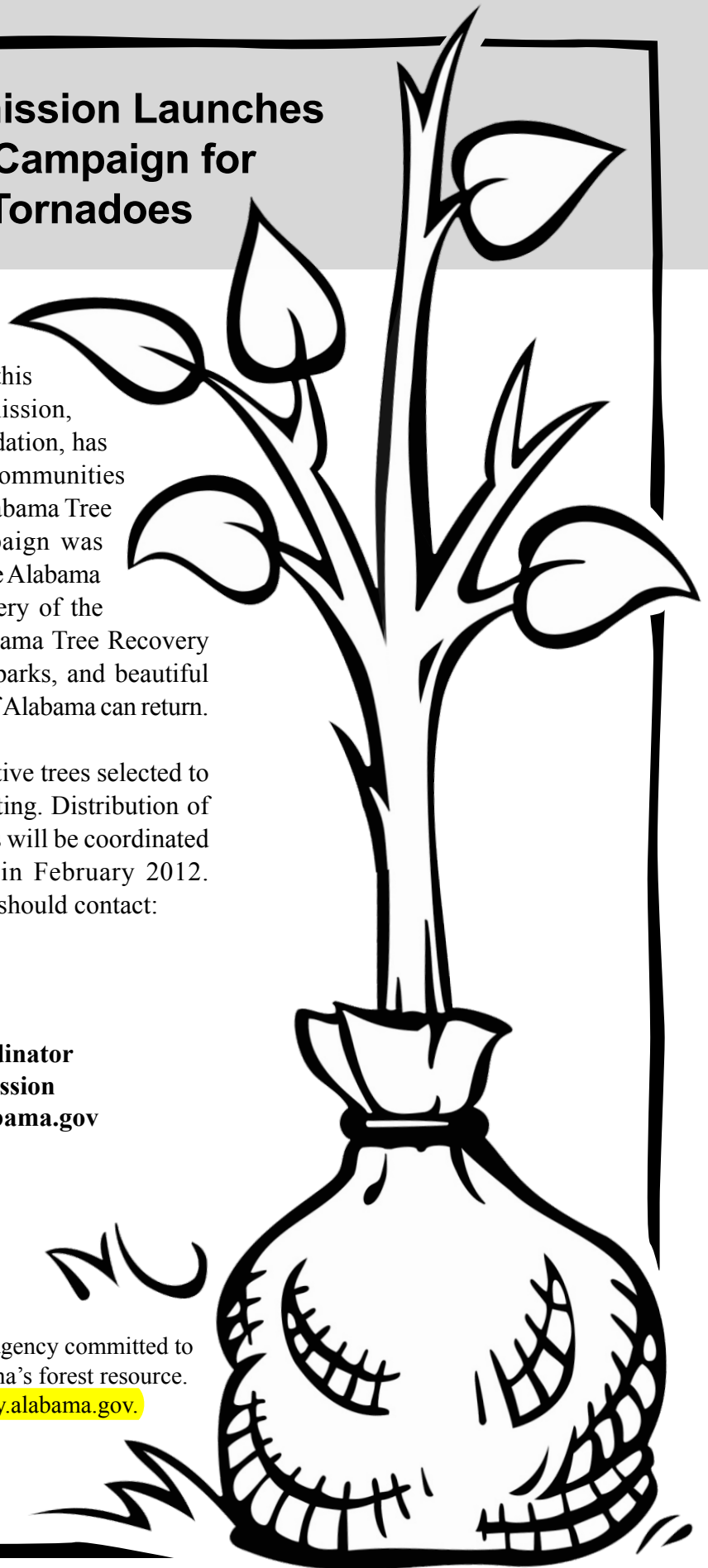
In the wake of the devastating tornadoes that battered communities throughout the northern two-thirds of Alabama this past April, the Alabama Forestry Commission, in collaboration with the Arbor Day Foundation, has launched a campaign to bring trees to communities throughout the tornado-damaged areas: Alabama Tree Recovery Campaign. This unique campaign was created in response to proactive efforts of the Alabama Forestry Commission to spearhead recovery of the area's trees and forests. Through the Alabama Tree Recovery Campaign, the tree-lined streets, shaded parks, and beautiful neighborhoods that have always been part of Alabama can return.

The Arbor Day Foundation will deliver native trees selected to thrive in the area at the best time for planting. Distribution of the trees to awaiting Alabama communities will be coordinated by the Alabama Forestry Commission in February 2012. Communities interested in receiving trees should contact:

**Matt McCollough**  
**State Urban Forestry Coordinator**  
**Alabama Forestry Commission**  
**Urban.Forestry@forestry.alabama.gov**  
**(334) 240-9360**

The Alabama Forestry Commission is a state agency committed to protecting, conserving, and increasing Alabama's forest resource.

For more information, visit [www.forestry.alabama.gov](http://www.forestry.alabama.gov).



# LEGAL CLEARINGHOUSE

**NOTE:** Legal summaries are provided within this column; however, additional background and/or pertinent information will be added to some of the decisions, thus calling your attention to the summaries we think are particularly significant. We caution you *not* to rely solely on a summary, or any other legal information, found in this column. You should read each case in its entirety for a better understanding.

## ALABAMA COURT DECISIONS

**Courts:** Pursuant to Section 15-21-6, Code of Alabama 1975, all circuit courts have the authority to issue a writ of habeas corpus. *Gibson v. State*, 61 So.3d 322 (Ala.Civ.App.2010)

**Due Process:** Due process of law requires fair notice that one's conduct is subject to a law or regulation. A provision of a student handbook prohibiting students from using or possessing alcohol at school or at a school function was ambiguous and vague in violation of due process rights of students who consumed alcohol prior to attending school prom. *Monroe County Bd. of Educ. v. K.B.*, 62 So.3d 513 (Ala.Civ.App.2010)

**Law Enforcement:** A court generally has no jurisdiction to enjoin law enforcement in the performance of its investigatory and prosecutorial functions. The Governor acted consistently with his constitutional authority in creating a task force on illegal gambling and appointing a district attorney to act as special prosecutor for the task force, and, thus, the attorney was acting pursuant to the valid legal direction of the governor in seeking to pursue the enforcement of State law prohibiting certain gambling activities and devices. The attorney was not wrongfully usurping the offices of district attorney for another county, sheriff, or the Attorney General as required for quo warranto action. *Tyson v. Jones*, 60 So.3d 831 (Ala.2010)

**Public Records:** The party refusing disclosure of records under the Open Records Act has the burden of proving that the writings or records sought are within an exception and warrant nondisclosure of them. A general suggestion by a governmental entity that disclosure would likely result in competitive harm to the person submitting the information is not sufficient to prevent disclosure under the public records disclosure exception for recorded information received by a public officer in confidence. *Tennessee Valley Printing Co., Inc., v. Health Care Authority of Lauderdale County*, 61 So.3d 1027 (Ala.2010)

**Tort Liability:** Arresting police officers were immune from liability on an arrestee's negligence claim relating to the officers' failure to recognize the arrestee's medical condition at the time of an arrest for driving under the influence when the arrestee was actually suffering from a brain aneurysm, and therefore city was also immune. The officers were performing

a discretionary function in the line in scope of their duties, and there was no evidence that they acted willfully, maliciously, fraudulently, in bad faith, or beyond their authority. *Walker v. City of Huntsville*, 62 So.3d 474 (Ala.2010)

## UNITED STATES COURT DECISIONS AFFECTING ALABAMA

**Immigration:** The U.S. Congress had failed to enact legislation to implement the Vienna Convention on Consular Rights and the introduction of legislation in the Senate to implement the treaty was not a sufficient reason to stay Texas's execution of a Mexican national. The Due Process Clause does not prohibit a State from carrying out a lawful judgment in light of unenacted legislation that might someday authorize a collateral attack on that judgment. *Garcia v. Texas*, 131 S.Ct. 2866 (U.S.2011)

## DECISIONS FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS

**Firearms:** The protections contained in the Second Amendment do not extend to aliens illegally present in the United States, and do not guarantee any right to illegal aliens to possess firearms. *U.S. v. Portillo-Munoz*, --- F.3d ----, 2011 WL 2306248 (5th Circuit 2011)

## ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINIONS

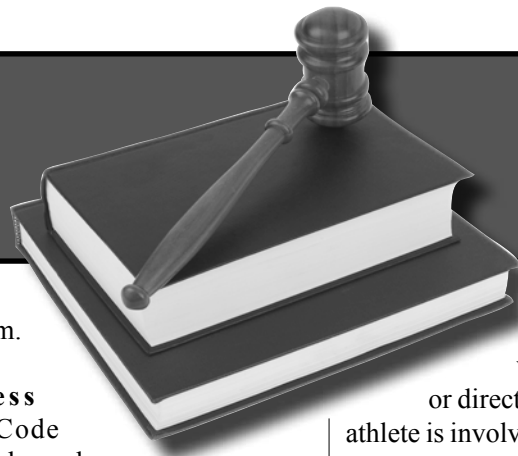
**Boards:** A Park and Recreation Board created pursuant to sections 11-22-1 through 11-22-19 of the Code of Alabama is a public corporation. AGO 2011-076

**Competitive Bid Law:** Members and officers of a separately incorporated municipal board are no longer specifically prohibited by the competitive bid law from submitting a bid or contract on a board project in which the board member has a financial interest. Whether such action may be prohibited pursuant to the State Ethics Law is a matter that should be submitted to the Ethics Commission. AGO 2011-081

**Conflicts of Interest:** When a legislator receives no compensation for serving as an at-large director of a Watershed Management Authority created pursuant to sections 9-10A-1 through 9-10A-22 of the Code of Alabama, and abstains from any decisions concerning state funding for the agency, there is no conflict of interest. A legislator serving as an at-large director may receive reimbursement for travel related to official agency business. AGO 2011-074

**Corrections Fund:** A municipality may use Corrections Fund monies for the eCite traffic citation system if the city determines the expenditures are necessary for the operation and maintenance of the court. Corrections Fund monies should be contributed or used only to the extent that the court benefits





from the use of this citation system.  
AGO 2011-079

### Licenses and Business

**Regulations:** The Alabama Code requires that any licensing agency charged with the duty to record social security numbers and report the numbers to the state's Title IV-D agency do so for any application, whether a new application or an application for renewal. Pursuant to section 30-3-194 of the Code of Alabama, any agency charged with the administration of any law concerning the issuance or renewal of a license, certificate, permit, or other authorization to drive a private or commercial motor vehicle or to engage in a profession, occupation, or recreational, sporting, or commercial activity shall require all applicants for issuance or renewal of the license, certificate, permit, or other authorization to provide the applicant's Social Security number to the agency, which agency shall record the Social Security number on the application and related records maintained by the agency. AGO 2011-075

**Public Works Bid Law:** If the governing body determines that changes are necessary for the proper completion of a public works project, it could also find that the circumstances are extraordinary and justify a change order in excess of 30 percent. AGO 2011-078

**Tort Liability:** Sections 35-15-20 through 35-15-28 of the Code of Alabama limit liability for the noncommercial, public recreational use of land. If the motivation underlying the land's recreational use is profit motivated, the immunity provisions contained in sections 35-15-20 through 35-15-28 of the Code of Alabama are not applicable. If fees are charged for the recreational use of land, it would be a question of fact as to whether the motivation for such fees is profit motivated. AGO 2011-080

### ETHICS COMMISSION ADVISORY OPINIONS

**AO No. 2011-07:** A prospective student-athlete may designate persons who are public officials or members of a household of such persons as recipients of complimentary, non-transferable admissions to an athletic event provided to the prospective student-athlete on an official or unofficial visit when the public official or family member of the public official is there in a representative capacity, as a chaperone, teacher, school administrator, etc., and where the activity is allowed under the NCAA Constitution and Bylaws. Division 1 Universities may provide high school, preparatory school or two year college coaches and other school administrators who are public employees or public officials or members of the household of such persons two complimentary, non-

transferable admissions to athletic events, when the individual is responsible for teaching or directing an activity in which a prospective student-athlete is involved, and where the activity is allowed under the NCAA Constitution and Bylaws. ■

## FAQ.

### *How are salaries set for appointed officials and employees?*

Generally, the full authority to control municipal finances is placed in the municipal council. See Section 11-43-56, Code of Alabama 1975. The salaries of all officers must be fixed by the council. See Section 11-43-8, Code of Alabama 1975. Where the council has established fees for services performed by officers, it may prescribe that such officers shall receive a salary in lieu of all other compensation. In such cases, those fees must be collected by the officer and paid to the municipal treasury. See Section 11-43-6, Code of Alabama 1975.

If a maximum salary is established by statute for a particular office, the council may not prescribe a salary in excess of the maximum. If a salary maximum has been established by ordinance, the council may increase the salary upon two-thirds affirmative vote of all members elected to the council by and with the consent of the mayor. See Section 11-43-8, Code of Alabama 1975. If a minimum salary is prescribed by statute, an officer is entitled to the minimum whether or not the council has established a salary for the office.

If compensation has not been prescribed by statute, employees shall receive such compensation as the council may prescribe by ordinance. See Section 11-43-7, Code of Alabama 1975. Where the Mayor has veto authority, ordinances and resolutions fixing the salaries of employees and officers are subject to the Mayor's veto. See Section 11-45-5, Code of Alabama 1975.

Section 68 of the Alabama Constitution of 1901, prohibits the council from increasing the compensation (salary or wage) of employees retroactive to a date beyond the first day of the pay period for which compensation will later be due. See AGO to Hon. Hugh Patterson, June 25, 1957 and AGO 2000-105. The salaries of officials and employees of public entities are matters of public record. See AGO 91-00364.



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of the investigatory process. Problems arise when a board member draws conclusions without conducting an adequate inquiry or, even worse, acts without sufficient information in order to force the body reach a conclusion he or she desires.

### Challenge “groupthink.”

This may seem to contradict the earlier advice to commit to board decisions. Groupthink occurs when a highly cohesive group is so concerned with maintaining unanimity that it fails to evaluate all other alternatives and options. Groupthink members see themselves as part of an in-group working against an out-group that is opposed to their goals.

The way to avoid this is, of course, to seek the advice of others and to encourage councilmembers to express their own views. But once all views are expressed and a vote is taken, councilmembers should work to find ways to support the decision.

### Trust is essential. Keep confidential discussions confidential.

In a council setting, this problem arises most often when one of the members reveals information that is discussed during an executive session, or when a member shares information outside a meeting with another member, only to have it disclosed at an inopportune time or even revealed in the media.

Of course, council meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act. This advice should not be taken as encouraging discussions on municipal business outside a publicly convened meeting. But the confidentiality of discussions held in compliance with the OMA should be respected.

Members have to know that they can trust other members. One of the reasons state law recognizes the right of councils to meet in executive session is so that the members will be able to freely discuss sensitive matters. If a member discloses the content of these discussions, that freedom has been destroyed.

### Keep outside matters out of the council chamber.

Councilmembers rarely serve without some outside contact with other members. There may be some pre-existing relationship between them. Additionally, while serving, councilmembers have contact with each other outside meetings. They may work together, go to church together or volunteer at the same facilities. Sometimes, this contact can be negative. Perhaps they were on opposing sides in a lawsuit or compete in business. But whether it is negative or positive, these outside matters must not be

allowed to intrude into a council meeting. Decisions should be made on their facts, not because one member either likes or dislikes another.

### Conclusion

Being a member of any board requires respecting the views of your fellow members. Often this may mean biting your tongue rather than speaking. It may require tact that you don't think you have. But the successful operation of your municipality depends largely on your ability to relate to and work with other members. After all, a municipal council can only act as a body, by voting.

Councilmembers must be able to trust each other and know that actions of the board will be respected by other members. Gaining that trust may take time but losing it only takes an instance. When you walk that fine line, always keep in mind that each member shares the same goal with you – helping your city or town grow, prosper and serve the citizens.

You want to be known as a facilitator, not a rubber stamper or roadblock. ■



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# COVERING YOUR (TECHNOLOGICAL) ASSETS

Monty Paggeot, Director of Information Services, ALM



**W**hen it comes to technology, we often equate success with capability – speed, connectivity and the ability to do *really cool stuff*. Capability, however, is mostly just gravy. The true sign of a successful technology operation is less gravy and more meat and potatoes.

**Backup** and **security** are the most important aspects when it comes to IT. These are the critical questions you should be asking your technology manager or IT consultant:

- Do we have multiple layers of security and *what are they*?
- What layers of protection do we have when it comes to viruses?
- Do we have multiple layers of backup protection?
- What is our plan in a disaster situation?

In dealing with any of these issues, always remember to take the onion approach. As an onion has multiple layers so should your network environment.

- Always have multiple levels of password and user access security protection.
- Make certain that **all** emails go through a content filter to check for viruses.
- Make certain that **every** server and workstation in your environment has virus protection installed.
- Make certain that **all** virus protection software is updated on a regular basis so it has the capability to recognize the newest viruses.
- Verify that you have a local backup resource, especially one with fast restore capabilities.
- **Even more important:** Ensure that you have a

remote backup taking place where your data is housed off-site. (I don't recommend using backup tapes for offsite backups. There are more modern technologies that allow organizations to have their data encrypted and backed up over the net to a Tier 4 facility, which is designed to host critical computer systems with fully redundant subsystems and compartmentalized security zones controlled by state-of-the-art access controls methods).

To avoid human error (no matter how much you trust your IT people, they're still human):

- Automate the procedures to take human error out of the equation.
- Setup all backup jobs to send detailed emails daily on the status of the previous night's backup job.
- Automate notification on security systems so that email notification will take place when a security breach has been detected.
- Setup quality control lists to verify that all monitoring tasks are being completed at a regular interval.
- Have your IT department routinely run vendor specific software applications that will double check security and patches in your environment.

If your technology manager or IT consultant is not following these steps, your assets are at risk – and you'll never truly understand just how important your data is until you can't get to it – or it disappears completely. I highly recommend that you use this information as a starting point to cover your (technological) assets! ■

*For additional information:*

[www.microsoft.com/security/default.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/security/default.aspx); [www.cnet.com](http://www.cnet.com);  
[www.symantec.com/index.jsp](http://www.symantec.com/index.jsp); and [www.cisco.com](http://www.cisco.com)

# Congratulations, 2011 CMO Graduates!

## 2011 Advanced Certified Municipal Officials

Council Member Robin Kelley, Auburn  
Council Member William D. Moore, Bridgeport  
Council Member Jackie Hambrick, Clay  
Mayor Ed McGuffie, Clay  
Council Member James L. Henderson, Eva  
Council Member Luther J. Upton, Evergreen  
Council Member Johnny E. Cannon, Gadsden  
Mayor Doug Brewer, Graysville  
Council Member Donald Myers, Guntersville  
Council Member Joann H. Walls, Hanceville  
Council Member Charles C. Wilson, Hanceville  
Council Member Donald E. Hall, Hartselle  
Council Member Kenny D. Thompson, Hartselle  
Council Member Claude Kitchin, Lincoln  
Council Member Chris C. Watson, Lincoln  
Council Member Reginald N. Wilson, Midfield  
Council Member Patsy C. Skipper, Midland City

Council Member Icie W. Wriley, Millport  
Council Member Joseph E. Pampinto, Muscle Shoals  
Council Member William Oren Stewart, Opp  
Council Member James O. McGowan, Pell City  
Council Member Joe Cochran, Pinson  
Council Member Kathryn Joy McCain, Pinson  
Council Member Bennie E. Harton, Reform  
Mayor M. S. Jessup, Riverside  
Council Member Paul Hollingsworth, Robertsdale  
Mayor George P. Evans, Selma  
Mayor LaFaye Dellinger, Smiths Station  
Mayor John McGowan, Union Springs  
Council Member Beatrice A. Turner, Uniontown  
Council Member Johnny L. Ragland, Warrior  
Council Member Gloria D. Stovall, Winfield  
Council Member Jeanette Brassfield-Payne, York

## 2011 Basic Certified Municipal Officials

Council Member John Spain, Anniston  
Mayor Gary W. Beam, Arab  
Council Member Jerry L. Conway, Brent  
Council Member Fred Barton, Brewton  
Council Member Joe Nathan Watson, Brewton  
Council Member Byron L. Dave, Bridgeport  
Mayor Jon G. Graham, Calera  
Mayor Henrietta D. Blackmon, Camden  
Council Member Alma L. King, Camden  
Council Member Bonnie W. Carter, Childersburg  
Council Member Billy L. Lester, Childersburg  
Council Member Michele N. Mizzell, Childersburg  
Council Member Charles Lee Reynolds, Childersburg  
Mayor Morris Fitts, Colony  
Council Member Lionel B. Feemster, Clay  
Council Member Becky G. Johnson, Clay  
Council Member Lisa Hansen, Dauphin Island  
Mayor Mike Grayson, Demopolis  
Commissioner James H. Reading, Dothan  
Commissioner Amos M. Newsome, Jr., Dothan  
Council Member Eldridge O. Turner, Fairfield  
Council Member Ralph G. Hellmich, Foley

Council Member Vera J. Quaites, Foley  
Mayor Allen J. Dunavant, Glen Allen  
Mayor Daryl Craig Patterson, Gordo  
Council Member Stephen E. Jones, Gulf Shores  
Council Member Sally Alexander, Hanceville  
Council Member Kim R. Brown, Hanceville  
Mayor Kenneth E. Nail, Hanceville  
Council Member Cris Nelson, Helena  
Council President Allyn Elizabeth Holladay, Homewood  
Council Member Hubert Terry Bearden, Irondale  
Council Member Robert G. Saunders, Irondale  
Mayor G. Richard Long, Jackson  
Council Member Janice F. LeMay, Killen  
Council Member Tony Chandler, Leesburg  
Council Member David Proctor, Lineville  
Council Member Jeffrey T. Knight, Loxley  
Council Member Samuel E. Sanders, Marion  
Council Member Jocelyn J. Tubbs-Turner, Marion  
Council Member Joseph J. Lott, Millbrook  
Mayor Joshua G. Wyatt, Moundville  
Council Member Verdell Trotter-Dees, Mount Vernon  
Council Member Sue Rogers, Oak Grove

Mayor Steven E. Baswell, Ohatchee  
 Council Member Scotty L. Short, Opp  
 Council Member Phillip E. Gardner, Oxford  
 Council Member Ronald C. Spurlin, Oxford  
 Mayor William E. Blackwell, Ozark  
 Mayor Don Murphy, Pelham  
 Council Member Charles E. Black, Priceville  
 Council Member Donald L. Livingston, Priceville  
 Council Member Larry H. Waddell, Priceville  
 Council Member Rachelle S. Painter, Riverside  
 Council Member Veronica Hudson, Saraland  
 Council Member Thomas H. Williams, Satsuma  
 Council Member Steven R. Stanley, Sheffield  
 Council Member Mary C. Stevens, Sheffield  
 Council Member Thomas E. Sawyer, Jr., Spanish Fort  
 Mayor William M. Isley, Jr., Springville  
 Council Member Morris Jackson, Smiths Station  
 Council Member Wanda H. Moultry, Troy  
 Council Member Kenneth E. Horn, Sylacauga  
 Council Member Bob A. Lundell, Tuscaloosa  
 Mayor Walt Maddox, Tuscaloosa  
 Council Member Martha P. Smith, Tuscumbia

Council Member Frank Braxton, Uniontown  
 Mayor Jamaal O. Hunter, Uniontown  
 Council Member Henry L. Cooper, Valley  
 Council Member Bridgette Jordan-Smith, Vincent  
 Mayor Ray H. McAllister, Vincent  
 Council Member Rusty N. Barnes, Winfield  
 Council Member Dennis E. Burks, Winfield  
 Mayor Wayne F. Silas, Winfield  
 Council Member Anthony T. DuBose, York



[www.alalm.org/CMOPage.html](http://www.alalm.org/CMOPage.html)

## Rebecca “Becky” H. Leavings Named Clerk of the Year

Rebecca “Becky” Leavings, City Clerk for the City of Vestavia Hills, was recently named Alabama’s City Clerk of the Year. Becky has been with the City of Vestavia Hills for more than 22 years. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from the University of Montevallo and has continued her education by earning additional certifications and is currently working towards her AICP (American Institute of Land Planners), which will be helpful in assisting with development and strategic planning for Vestavia Hills.

In the letter nominating Becky for Clerk of the Year, her colleagues described her as someone who: “always contributes and goes above and beyond to participate in the Jefferson County Municipal Clerks Association (JCMCA) where she serves currently as Secretary and is on a number of committees. She is quick to answer any of our questions through our Listserve. You can rely on her answers being correct due to her many years of municipal service. If she doesn’t know the answer (which is rare) she researches the question, posts the answer and provides proof of her answer by listing her source. Currently, she is working on our Directory and is always willing to serve on the next committee for our next project, never tiring. We are privileged to have Becky as an Officer and Member of JCMCA. She is truly an asset and continues to help enrich our group. The knowledge, education and training that she brings along with the many honors and activities she has accomplished makes her the right candidate and our choice for City Clerk of the Year.”

Congratulations, Becky!



# Certified Municipal Official Training



Contact Cindy Price at [cindyp@alalm.org](mailto:cindyp@alalm.org)  
for more information or visit:  
[www.alalm.org/CMOPage.html](http://www.alalm.org/CMOPage.html)

## ICMA Announces Sam Gaston as 2011 - 2012 President



Mountain Brook City Manager, Sam Gaston, will serve as President of the International City-County Management Association (ICMA) for 2011 - 2012. He will be installed as President at the ICMA annual

conference in Milwaukee on September 21st. ICMA was founded in 1914, has 9,000 members world-wide and is the premier organization for professional local government managers and administrators.

## 2012 Quality of Life Awards

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for entry form





# Sheffield Knows What to Expect

“Our 2011 KME pumper has proven to be the equipment we have learned to expect when dealing with NAFECO.”



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“Our 2011 KME pumper has proven to be the equipment we have learned to expect when dealing with NAFECO. Not only has our fleet been updated, it has far more than met the demands of the department. We have enjoyed our relationship with Jerrell Oaks and the entire staff at NAFECO. Their willingness to work with our city government through the specification and bidding process and their timely delivery of our pumper have been much appreciated. From our rolling stock needs to our personal safety equipment, every day uniforms and dress uniforms, we have learned that NAFECO is there for our small purchases as well as our large equipment needs”

*Mayor Ian T. Sanford  
Fire Chief Dewey King  
Bluffs of the Tennessee River, Sheffield, Alabama*



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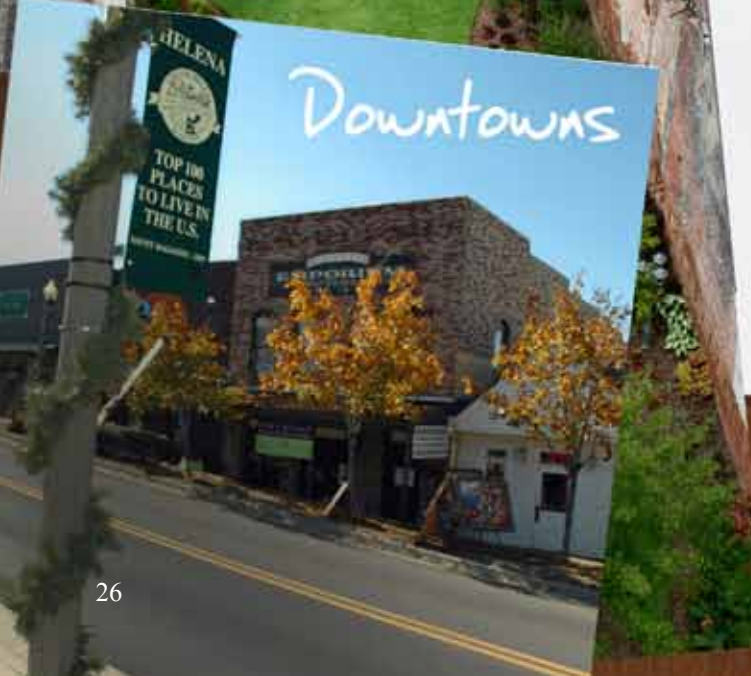
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Photos Wanted!



The Alabama League of Municipalities is seeking photos for use on its website and in its publications. **Spotlight your municipality by sending us your photos!** Photos must be of an Alabama city or town and follow a municipal theme: municipal buildings, parks, street scenes, downtowns, city festivals, etc. Photos do not have to be taken by a professional photographer; however, they must be submitted on a CD or emailed as a high resolution JPEG or TIFF file. (High resolution files are necessary for print quality purposes.) Each entry must include a photo description as well as photographer's name and contact information. Email submissions to [karlf@alalm.org](mailto:karlf@alalm.org) or mail cd submissions to:

**Alabama League of Municipalities  
Attn: Photo Submissions  
P.O. Box 1270  
Montgomery, AL 36102**

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