

2023 Convention Review Special Issue

The Alabama

# MUNICIPAL

Official publication of the Alabama League of Municipalities

Journal

## 2023 CONVENTION REVIEW



**BIRMINGHAM • MAY 10-13 • BJCC**

## LEAGUE OFFICERS

**RANDY GARRISON**

*Mayor, Hartselle, President*

**MARK SALIBA**

*Mayor, Dothan, Vice President*

**GREG COCHRAN**

*Executive Director*

## CHAIRS OF THE LEAGUE'S STANDING COMMITTEES

**Committee on State and  
Federal Legislation**

**CHARLES BLACK**

*Councilmember, Priceville, Chair*

**RALPH HELLMICH**

*Mayor, Foley, Vice Chair*

**Committee on Finance, Administration  
and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR)**

**SHELDON DAY**

*Mayor, Thomasville, Chair*

**CRYSTAL SMITHERMAN**

*Councilmember, Birmingham, Vice Chair*

**Committee on Energy, Environment  
and Natural Resources (EENR)**

**ASHLEY CURRY**

*Mayor, Vestavia Hills, Chair*

**RON MASON**

*Councilmember, Butler, Vice Chair*

**Committee on Transportation,  
Infrastructure and Communication (TIC)**

**TAB BOWLING**

*Mayor, Decatur, Chair*

**DON MACK**

*Councilmember, Centreville, Vice Chair*

**Committee on Public Safety (PS)**

**MICHAEL ELLIS**

*Councilmember, LaFayette, Chair*

**JOE TAYLOR**

*Mayor, Rainbow City, Vice Chair*

**Committee on Human  
Development (HD)**

**RON ANDERS**

*Mayor, Auburn, Chair*

**GAYLE ROBBINS**

*Councilmember, Florala, Vice Chair*

**Committee on Community and  
Economic Development (CED)**

**JOE WATSON**

*Councilmember, Brewton, Chair*

**BRIAN PUCKETT**

*Mayor, Helena, Vice Chair*

# About ALM:

The Alabama League of Municipalities is a nonpartisan membership association of over 450 incorporated cities and towns. Since 1935, the League has worked to strengthen municipal government through advocacy, training and the advancement of effective local leadership. As the recognized voice of Alabama's cities and towns, ALM's member municipalities benefit from a variety of member programs, services and activities that are impossible to accomplish alone.



## Go Digital!

Scan the QR code to see e-versions of *The Alabama Municipal Journal* available online. Between editions, keep up with ALM's daily activities via our social media channels. Photos from League events are also available for viewing and downloading on our new Flickr page ([flickr.com/photos/alabamaleagueofmunicipalities/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/alabamaleagueofmunicipalities/albums)).



Follow us on Twitter: @AL\_League



Follow us on Facebook: @ALALM



Follow us on Instagram: @alabamacitiesandtowns



Follow us on LinkedIn: @alabama-league-of-municipalities



Follow us on Flickr: Alabama League of Municipalities

## Advertising with the League:

*The Alabama Municipal Journal* is published by the Alabama League of Municipalities, 535 Adams Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36104. Telephone (334) 262-2566. Website: [www.almonline.org](http://www.almonline.org).

Subscriptions are \$26.00 per year. Advertising rates and a circulation statement are available at [www.almonline.org](http://www.almonline.org) or by calling the above number. Statements or expressions of opinions appearing within this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Alabama League of Municipalities. Publication of any advertisement should not be considered an endorsement of the product or service involved. Material from this publication may not be reprinted without permission.

Editor: LORI JHONS Graphic Designer: KARL FRANKLIN



# The Alabama MUNICIPAL Journal

Official publication of the Alabama League of Municipalities

2023 Convention Review Special Issue

## In this Issue:

|   |    |   |    |
|---|----|---|----|
| Outgoing President's Farewell Address .....   | 5  | General Session Keynote Speakers .....                                | 29 |
| Executive Director's Report .....   | 7  | Ask Your Attorney Session .....                                       | 30 |
| Gov. Ivey Keynotes Opening Session .....  | 10 | 2023 Distinguished Service Awards .....                               | 32 |
| Minutes of the Annual Business Session .....  | 12 | 2022 Municipal Clerk of the Year .....                                | 33 |
| President's Acceptance Speech .....   | 15 | Schedule the Firearms Training System .....                           | 34 |
| The League Welcomes New Vice President .....  | 17 | 2023 CMO Regional Training .....                                      | 35 |
| Outgoing Vice President Bids Farewell .....   | 18 | ALM Launches Online Member Portal .....                               | 35 |
| The League Recognizes our Strategic Partners, Community<br>Partners and League Programs ..... | 22 | 2023 Convention Sponsors, Break Sponsors<br>and EXPO Exhibitors ..... | 36 |
| MWCF Board Report .....   | 24 | In Memory: 2022 - 2023 .....  | 38 |
| AMIC Board Report .....   | 25 | Municipal Flag Showcase Participants .....                            | 39 |
| AMFund Board Report .....   | 26 | Thank You for Your Hospitality, Birmingham .....                      | 40 |
| MIS Board Report .....  | 27 | Thank You to the League Team .....                                    | 42 |
| Alabama Power Update .....  | 28 |   |    |



## On the Cover:

*Mayor Randy Garrison of Hartselle and Mayor Mark Saliba of Dothan were elected as the 2023-2024 president and vice president during the business session of the League's 2023 Convention on May 12. Pictured left to right: immediate past Vice President Adam Bourne of Chickasaw, immediate past President Tony Haygood of Tuskegee, ALM Executive Director Greg Cochran, President Randy Garrison and Vice President Mark Saliba.*

# Insuring the Future of Local Government



Is *YOUR*  
Future Covered?

Rated A- by A.M. Best



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

1-866-239-2642 (AMIC)

# Outgoing President's Farewell Address

2023 Opening Session • May 10 • Birmingham

Mayor Lawrence F. "Tony" Haygood Jr., Tuskegee • ALM President 2022–2023

**I**t has truly been a privilege, an honor and great pleasure to serve as president of the Alabama League of Municipalities this past year. Previous presidents warned me that the year would go by quickly and it did.

First, let me thank our host city of Birmingham for working closely with the League staff to put together an awesome convention, during our celebration of Municipal Government Week.

I want to thank my colleagues for your trust in choosing me to serve and represent you as League president. It was a year filled with great experiences and opportunities to connect and work with people throughout Alabama, with state officials in Montgomery and elected officials at the national level in Washington, D.C. I learned a lot and have an even greater appreciation of what our Executive Director Greg Cochran and the ALM staff do to support our cities and towns. As you have heard me say before, the League staff is effective, efficient and very professional in the way they perform and carry out the serious business of the League. The League Advocacy Team helped me to learn the importance of consistently and constantly lifting the concerns of our cities and towns and the need to be vigilant regarding the erosion of municipal authority, municipal rights and critical revenues that we need to provide quality services to the citizens of our communities. Thank you, Kayla, Bryan and Baker who battle on the front line with Greg every day.

The Economic Development Academy spearheaded by Bryan and former Director of Commerce Neal Wade was a very timely addition for our League. As a city in the first class of academy training, the information we gained was very beneficial as we negotiated for our first automotive industry in our city this year. With the additional knowledge, we were able to land the first U. S. plant for SAMKEE Automotive Diecast Aluminum, a South Korean company, in America. We are looking forward to the initial 170 new jobs this project will bring, which is expected to increase to 300 later.

During the fall, the League incorporated the Alabama Communities of Excellence program under

its umbrella of services available to our members. This is another amazing program that aims to provide the tools to help our smaller communities plan, grow and prosper through strategic planning. Mary Jackson, the program coordinator, is a former city clerk for Monroeville, so she brings a firsthand perspective to her approach of enhancing this 20-year-old program for our current and future communities.

Furthermore, I feel that the League has strengthened our position in Washington, D.C. by connecting directly with Alabama's senior senator, "Coach" Tommy Tuberville, and recently elected U.S. Sen. Katie Britt along with our congressmembers from the seven congressional districts throughout Alabama. In the state, we have hosted the governor and key legislators on several occasions listening to their plans and sharing our input and concerns.

Sometimes we can overlook some of the strongest measures we achieve together. One of the stronger steps I witnessed was the ability for members of the Alabama League of Municipalities to work together and seek solutions beneficial to all our communities and our citizens. We work beyond party differences, political differences, regional and geographic differences, as a team of members to promote the League and get the best for all our cities and towns regardless of



size, location or community demographics. As Alabamians, we are also quick to help our neighbors when tragedy strikes.

As you may know, we in Tuskegee and Macon County are connecting with the city of Dadeville to deal with the senseless violence and tragedy that occurred last month. This will be an ongoing process as Dadeville attempts to heal and move forward and as Tuskegee seeks answers and solutions in our community. We have pledged our support to Dadeville from Tuskegee and ask that our member cities join us in uplifting Dadeville, Alabama. I would like to recognize Mayor Jimmy “Frank” Goodman of Dadeville and ask that we show him and his community our love, our prayers and our support going forward.

I feel that the Alabama League of Municipalities demonstrates its strong commitment to serve our cities and towns on a daily basis. As I turn things over, I know our next president will build upon that record and work to take us even higher. We have a great wealth of past presidents who came before me to guide and support our next leader as they did for me. I am especially grateful to my predecessor and dear friend, Mayor Gary Fuller of Opelika, for not only being a good neighbor but a mentor as well. Our past presidents are some of the most remarkable, leadership-oriented people I know. They are always willing to lend a hand or an ear, and trust me, I will do the same for whoever takes the helm of our organization next.

In conclusion, again I say thank you to my family, Tuskegee City Council, for your support and encouragement.

As we build our cities, towns and communities, we build our state of Alabama, and we build our nation.

May we continue to set an example at the League of how we can truly be “The Great State of Alabama” and a great state in the United States of America. Thank you and God bless you, your families and your communities. ■



# Executive Director's Report

2023 Business Session • May 12 • Birmingham

Gregory D. Cochran • ALM Executive Director

**G**ood afternoon, Alabama cities and towns! Thank you, Mayor Haygood, for that kind introduction and for your tremendous service as our president. I have truly enjoyed working with you and our vice president, Councilman Adam Bourne, this past year. I am grateful for your friendship and leadership.

Are you all enjoying convention so far? I know I am! Our team has done a fantastic job of setting up an engaging event here in the Magic City. Thank you, Mayor Woodfin and the Birmingham City Council, for hosting us this year.

Folks, I have had the honor of working for the Alabama League of Municipalities for 27 years, and in that time, I have seen lots of transformation. When I think about what the League is and what it means to me, I can rattle off any number of things. You all know me, but that is why our staff leadership team keeps me in line! I am your biggest supporter, and I have the car tag and Instagram handle to prove it – ALM 1935 and Alabama City Advocate!

In all seriousness though, in recent years, it has become evident that we must do more to expand our visibility. There are many people in the public that do not know what the League does, what ALM means or what municipal government entails. I have even heard of a few members not knowing about some of the awesome programs we offer. That must change! We want everyone in this room and beyond to know who we are and the resources we provide our members.

May 15<sup>th</sup> will mark eighty-eight years since Gov. Bibb Graves gave our fledgling organization office space on Goat Hill in the state capitol to advocate for municipal policies. Back then, the 1930 U.S. Census showed that Alabama's population exceeded 2.6 million, with the vast majority (nearly 2 million) being classified as rural dwellers.

Since then, we have had five executive directors, 79 presidents, have moved and upgraded our headquarters across the street from the capitol. Today, Alabama's population has nearly doubled to 5.04 million and over 61% of our citizens live in municipalities, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

This is why the League is important. In the last century, the majority of Alabamians have either moved to municipalities or they work in them, and each of you has the daunting yet rewarding responsibility of providing them with a high quality of life and essential services in your communities. This is why we are here today, and why we are proud to be the voice of Alabama's municipalities.

Most people tend to think of lobbyist organizations as just that, places that focus on lobbying. I am proud to say we do that and a whole lot more. At the heart of who we are at the League, you will find three words that define our purpose – Educate, Advocate and Innovate.

At the League, we are dedicated to educating both new and veteran members about best practices in doing their jobs. We want every one of you to have a firm foundation, so you can better serve your communities. In 2022, we had 53 members receive their Basic Certified Municipal Official certification; 21 to receive their Advanced CMO certification; and eight to receive their Emeritus CMO certification! On top of that, 10 communities received their Certified Municipality Achievement Award, which indicates that each of their elected officials have achieved their Basic CMO designation. If you have reached your Basic, Advanced or Emeritus CMO designation, please stand.

We also had 30 municipalities graduate from the Economic Development Academy last year, and we currently have 10



*Scan the QR code to see the full speech on the League's YouTube channel.*



taking part in our second class. Bryan Parker has done an outstanding job spearheading EDA and working with Neal Wade, former director of the Alabama Development Office, and the Alabama Community College System to create this quality program. When we got word that previous participants wanted to further their learning, we made it happen and now have nine cities participating in our advanced second year course. This is what ALM is all about. We are here to be a resource.

Furthermore, this past fall, the League gained responsibility of overseeing the Alabama Communities of Excellence Program as one of our official programs. Since 2002, 43 communities have achieved this distinction and four more are currently going through the process. With Mary Jackson as program coordinator, we plan to maintain ACE's rich integrity and assist more communities with their strategic planning to take them to the next level.

On the advocacy front, we remain committed to ensuring municipalities can make decisions for themselves. When we met with Congressman Jerry Carl at the NLC Congressional City Conference in March, he said, "There is nothing more important than local government." We certainly agree and know that to be true. We were glad to hear that same sentiment across the delegation as we met with each of our federal leaders, including our newest officials, U.S. Sen. Katie Britt and U.S. Rep. Dale Strong. Sen. Britt gave a very insightful update to our entire group of attendees, and she made sure to tell us how much it meant to her to have so many of our members present for her swearing-in ceremony in January.

We were thrilled to have over 180 mayors, councilmembers and their staffs join us in D.C. to advocate for and against federal legislation impacting our communities. When you take a step back to think, it is pretty remarkable that we have consistently brought one of the largest, if not the largest, group of delegates to Congressional City Conference each year. As you can see, it matters how and when we show up.

As you may recall, this year kicked off a new quadrennium for the legislative session. We appreciate Gov. Kay Ivey and the Alabama Legislature for allocating the remaining \$1 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in the special session. Our cities and towns have an opportunity to make historic investments in water and sewer projects, broadband, health care and even stormwater drainage projects. We were glad to hear from the governor, Lt. Gov. Will Ainsworth and legislative leaders on their priorities during our annual Advocacy Day. While it is yet to be seen what the last few weeks of session will bring, we know without a doubt that municipal authority has been under fire. Sadly, this has been the case across the country. That is why it is undeniably important that we get face time with our state and federal lawmakers and is a big reason we host this event along with our congressional and legislative dinners in state each year.

This year, we also have 37 new legislators, which is over a quarter of the full legislature, and means we need to do everything we can to connect with them on issues dear to our hearts and communities. We recognize it can be a little challenging or even frustrating at times to talk to some of them, some more than others, but it is essential for us to have these dialogues.

We were also involved in the passing of the Streamline Sales and Use Tax legislation in 2018. This legislation allows for the taxation of online retail sales from businesses outside our state to Alabama residents. We have collected and disbursed over \$664 million to communities across Alabama during these five years.

In fact, our conversations with lawmakers helped to pass the Rebuild Alabama Act in 2019, which has led to more than \$145 million in state transportation funding being awarded to support local projects in all 67 counties. Similar to this bipartisan project, we are grateful to Gov. Ivey and the legislature for passing "The Game Plan," a package of four economic development bills, including renewing the Alabama Jobs Act and the Growing Alabama program, which will strengthen the state's competitiveness for job-creating projects. Alabama is one of the few states that has done well economically since the pandemic, but these incentives are going to go a long way in bringing in more economic investment to our communities.

The final part of who we are focuses on innovating cutting edge ideas and services. We know you all work with small staffs on tight budgets, and you often wear many hats, so we are always looking for ways to be helpful. Just this year we released our first *Municipal Reporting Guide* to give members a one-stop guide to laws that require local governments to provide annual reports on specific municipal operations. Additionally, we issued our third edition of the *Municipal Resource Guide*, which shares high level information and timelines for applying to state grants. We commend Baker Allen, our director of policy and research, for overseeing these two projects.

I am also pleased to announce we have officially launched our new member portal! Elected officials asked for the ability to track their progress in the CMO Program, and we heard you! Members can sign in to view and download their CMO transcripts, print open invoices and register for events.

This year, we brought our Firearms Training System to the conference to let you put yourself in the shoes of your police officers. This state-of-the-art, hands-on training could be the difference between life and death for those in law enforcement, and we know it is needed now more than ever. This is a service offered through our Loss Control Division. We really do aim to prepare our members for anything and everything.



In an effort to foster more productive work in our communities, we began recruiting strategic partners three years ago. These partnerships provide unique and intentional collaboration opportunities and help promote our mission and vision. We are pleased to now have 24 dependable, strategic partners!

Alabama is in a great economic position thanks to the people in this room. Municipalities are the foundation of Alabama's economy, and it takes all of us doing our part in our communities to make it even better. I challenge you to work with yourself and your council and find ways to become more engaging at home and active in our organization. Take advantage of our resources. Build an inclusive, collaborative network within your community to seek out opportunities for economic growth and for overcoming existing challenges.

Increase your knowledge through our resources to improve your city through the CMO, EDA and ACE programs.

Advocate for municipal governance every chance you get. Contact your legislators to share not only concerns but suggestions to overcome challenges in your community.

Innovate your city to move Alabama forward. Consider developing youth and adult leadership programs, implementing technology, and hosting regular city forums to discuss your city's future.

Members, we have had some great years, but the time

is NOW to step up. As we have seen during this legislative session, we cannot rest on our laurels.

Local government is under attack. The more we speak to our federal and state lawmakers, citizens and youth about the importance of local government; the more we share social media posts about the good deeds you're doing in the community; the more we congregate as one – the better we make it for all of us. Not only for the present but for future generations.

Now, it is time to get to work! I challenge you to get out and Educate, Advocate and Innovate with us!

Thank you to our incredible five-star staff for the months of planning they have put into creating an event conducive to learning, networking and having fun. I also want to again thank our strategic partners, our community partners and our convention sponsors for their investments to ensure a successful conference.

Lastly, I want to recognize our amazing board and executive committee for being here to conduct the League's official business in just a few minutes. Between them, we have decades of invaluable leadership, and we appreciate them for continuing to help steer our organization in the right direction.

I hope everyone has enjoyed your conference. May peace be with all of you! ■



**“I challenge you  
to *Educate, Advocate*  
and *Innovate* with us!”**

**CONVENTION 2023**



# Gov. Ivey Keynotes Opening Session

Gov. Kay Ivey addressed a room full of municipal officials during the opening session of convention, on May 10, 2023, at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex. She gave a thorough update on the legislative session, the Game Plan and her priorities for Alabama. We thank Gov. Ivey for taking the time to speak to our members and for declaring May 7-13 as Municipal Government Week in Alabama. As she said in her speech, “We are all working for the same goal to ensure a stronger future for our state.” ■ *(Photo credit: Hal Yeager/Governor’s Office)*





# Minutes of the Annual Business Session

2023 Business Session • May 12 • Birmingham

Lorelei Lein • ALM General Counsel

The annual business session of the convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities was called to order at 3:30 p.m., May 12, 2023, by President Tony Haygood, mayor of Tuskegee, at the BJCC in Birmingham, Alabama. President Haygood welcomed the attendees.

President Haygood called on Greg Cochran, executive director of the Alabama League of Municipalities, for his annual remarks. He reviewed the past year and all the successes and challenges that the League and its staff successfully navigated. ***A full copy of his report can be found on pages 7 - 9.***

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 can be found on pages 24 - 27.***

After the various board reports, Greg Cochran acknowledged visiting non-active past presidents and former Executive Director Perry Roquemore. He then called upon ALM Communications Director Lori Johns to read the list of current and former officials who have died since the 2022 ALM Convention. ***The complete list can be found on page 38.*** After reading the names, Lori Johns 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.

President Haygood thanked Greg Cochran for his reports and stated that before moving on to the business of elected new leadership, he wanted to invite Vice President Adam Bourne to the podium to make some remarks. Councilmember Bourne informed the membership that he was taking a new position as director of the Mobile County Personnel Board and as such was resigning from his position as a councilmember for the city of Chickasaw, effective May 14, 2023. He stated that it was a privilege and an honor to serve as the League's vice president and that he would miss being a part of the League.

President Haygood thanked Vice President Bourne for his dedication and willingness to serve the League and expressed that he really enjoyed working closely with him this past year. He reminded Vice President Bourne that he will always have friends at the League. President Haygood then called upon Lori Lein, ALM general counsel, to read the rules for voting during the League's Business Session.

After the reading of the rules, President Haygood informed the membership that the League's Executive Committee had met on May 10, 2023, to prepare a slate of nominees to be presented for consideration. He noted that they had a tough assignment choosing officers for the next year from an abundance of very qualified candidates. He then called on Lori Lein to read the report on nominations:

## LEADERSHIP

- For President: Randy Garrison, Mayor, Hartselle
- For Vice President: Mark Saliba, Mayor, Dothan

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### From the First Congressional District:

- Mayor Jim Staff, Atmore
- CM Katherine Breeden, Loxley
- Mayor Sherry Sullivan, Fairhope
- CM Newton Cromer, Saraland
- CM Ruthie Campbell, Robertsdale

### From the Second Congressional District:

- CM Michael Gay, Millbrook
- Mayor Gordon Stone, Pike Road
- Mayor Dexter McLendon, Greenville
- Mayor Jason Reeves, Troy
- Mayor Stanley Stallworth, Evergreen

### From the Third Congressional District:

- Mayor Rusty Jessup, Riverside
- CM Billy Pearson, Lincoln
- Mayor Alberta McCrory, Hobson City
- Mayor Ron Anders, Auburn
- CM Michael Ellis, LaFayette

### From the Fourth Congressional District:

- CM Jennifer Williams Smith, Jasper
- Mayor Allen Dunavant, Glen Allen
- Mayor Craig Ford, Gadsden
- Mayor Mike Lockhart, Muscle Shoals
- Mayor Scott Reeves, Hokes Bluff

**From the Fifth Congressional District:**

- CM Dana Henry, Athens
- Mayor Gary Livingston, Eva
- Mayor Tommy Battle, Huntsville
- Mayor Andrew Betterton, Florence
- CM Tommy Perry, Priceville

**From the Sixth Congressional District:**

- Mayor Mike Oakley, Centreville
- Mayor Ashley Curry, Vestavia Hills
- Mayor Bobby Scott, Center Point
- Mayor Frank Brocato, Hoover
- Mayor Bobbie White, Brent

**From the Seventh Congressional District:**

- CM Marche` Johnson, Montgomery
- Mayor James Perkins Jr., Selma
- Mayor Gwendolyn Rogers, Linden
- Mayor Brian Puckett, Helena
- Mayor Sheldon Day, Thomasville

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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

- Mayor Tony Haygood, Tuskegee
- Mayor Gary Fuller, Opelika
- Mayor Leigh Dollar, Guntersville
- Mayor Ronnie Marks, Athens
- Mayor Howard Rubenstein, Saraland
- Mayor Phil Segraves, 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: CM Charles Black (2023)
- Vice Chair: Mayor Ralph Hellmich, Foley

**Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations:**

- Chair: Mayor Sheldon Day, Thomasville (2023)
- Vice Chair: CM Crystal Smitherman, Birmingham

**Energy, Environment and Natural Resources:**

- Chair: Mayor Ashley Curry, Vestavia Hills (2022)
- Vice Chair: CM Ron Mason, Butler (2022)

**Community and Economic Development:**

- Chair: CM Joe Watson, Brewton (2022)
- Vice Chair: Mayor Brian Puckett, Helena

**Public Safety**

- Chair: CM Michael Ellis, LaFayette (2023)
- Vice Chair: Mayor Joe Taylor, Rainbow City

**Transportation, Infrastructure and Communications:**

- Chair: Mayor Tab Bowling, Decatur (2023)
- Vice Chair: CM Don Mack, Centreville

**Human Development:**

- Chair: Mayor Ron Anders, Auburn (2023)
- Vice Chair: CM Gayle Robbins, Florala

After the reading of the nominations committee report, President Haygood asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Seeing none, he stated that unless there was an objection, he declared the nominations closed. There were no objections.

**Mayor Brian Puckett, Helena, moved for the adoption of the nominating committee’s report as presented. Councilmember Michael Gay, Millbrook, seconded the motion. There being no objection to the motion from the floor, the motion passed unanimously. The president declared all officers elected.**

President Haygood congratulated Mayor Garrison and Mayor Saliba and the other officials elected to serve the League and called upon Mayor Garrison to make remarks to the membership. Mayor Garrison thanked the membership for allowing him the honor of serving as the League’s president. *A full copy of Mayor Garrison’s acceptance speech can be found on pages 15 - 16.*

Upon the conclusion of his remarks to the membership, President Garrison called on Greg Cochran for announcements. Greg Cochran announced the League’s 2024 Convention and Expo will take place in Huntsville on May 15-18. He then recognized the League’s strategic and community partners and reminded the membership about the President’s Dinner scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the Birmingham Ballroom at the Sheraton Hotel.

There being no further business, President Garrison officially adjourned the meeting. ■

Lorelei Lein, General Counsel  
Acting Secretary



# President's Acceptance Speech

2023 Business Session • May 12 • Birmingham

Mayor Randy Garrison, Hartselle • ALM President 2023–2024

*On May 12, Hartselle Mayor Randy Garrison was elected by his municipal colleagues, during the annual business session, to serve as president of the Alabama League of Municipalities for 2023-2024.*

**G**ood afternoon to each of you. What an honor and blessing it is to stand here before you and be given the opportunity to work with each of you and the League staff to make our all our cities and towns even better for those we serve.

To be able to join alongside you to make a difference in the lives of our citizens is indeed a goal of mine.

I also want to honor those who came before us and leave our time of influence in the world a better place for those who follow.

First, I want to thank God for allowing me to serve the folks in my hometown. I truly believe He placed me in this position, and I am very thankful for the opportunity. It is a blessing to serve in the role of mayor of the city I have lived in my entire life.

One of the first things I did was get involved in the League, which I believe, along with God's help, has enabled the last almost seven years I have served to be successful. In fact, my second day in office I was in a newly elected official training given by the League.

Now, just a few years later, another opportunity to serve has been given to me.

I would like to thank the nominating committee for their confidence in me and to all of you delegates who voted to give me the opportunity to serve the League and each of you as president.

Being asked to serve in this position is very humbling, and I will do my best to live and to serve to the level of leadership of those in whose footsteps I follow. These dedicated servant leaders, both men and women, continue serving their cities and towns and the League with passion and integrity, while giving selflessly of their time.

During my tenure, I will do my best to continue that legacy each of them left.

I would also like to thank the Hartselle City Council for their support and the great teamwork we have shared during the last 6.5 years. We do work as a team with the goal of serving our citizens to the best of our ability. I also

have the pleasure of working with the greatest department heads I could ask for.

I would also like to thank my wife and best friend Lynn for her support. When I shared with her that I wanted to seek the office of mayor, she asked if I had lost my mind. Her dad served as mayor in the early 1980s, and she remembers the many phone calls and issues he faced.

Yet, she has been there for me the entire time, from campaigning to listening to my ideas, supporting me, and sometimes listening to me vent over something. Next week, we will celebrate 37 years of marriage, and with God's help and if He wills, another 37 years. We now share two sons, two daughters-in-law and the joy of our lives, three grandchildren.

I look forward to working with the League leadership and staff in the coming year. Strengthening local municipal government through support and advocacy with legislators as well as helping to train municipal officials to achieve



*Scan the QR code to see the full speech on the League's YouTube channel.*



effective local leadership in all our cities and towns throughout the great state of Alabama.

Each of the League staff is ready, able, and willing to serve the leadership of our municipalities as each of you serves your communities.

I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year as we learn from each other by sharing our strengths and weaknesses and helping each other to grow our communities and serve our folks in our cities and towns.

While you hear this quote many times, municipalities are the foundation and life blood of our state's economies. By working together, we can create communities where all our citizens can live, work, play, learn, worship and prosper. We can continue to support our businesses where all can thrive, and our economy can continue to grow and support the needs of each of our cities and towns.

A rising tide raises all ships and by working together each one of our cities and towns can prosper, move forward and continue to achieve greatness in the means they desire.

All of us know that local governments are where the rubber meets the asphalt. We see those we serve at church, the grocery store, running errands and walking downtown. We have the ability no other government official can offer to its constituents, we can and do affect each of their daily lives.

This is not an issue you or I take lightly. Providing the best services possible, and the best quality of life possible, with the available funds each of us have is priority one for all of us.

I would also like to thank each of you for being willing to stand up, stick your neck out there, put your name on a ballot and serve your respective cities and towns. While I say to you that I have enjoyed 99.9% of the time I have served, that .1% can sometimes take a toll on you.

When folks ask why I chose to serve our local city, I share the following words from Luke 12:48 NIV:

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

I believe the word of God and take it literally.

Each of us must work diligently in the role in which we have been placed. Our attitudes, actions and responses to the work we do are especially necessary for leaders.



We should work for our citizens just as we are working for the Lord. I believe we have been given the leadership roles we have for a reason, to serve others.

Those who are watchful and faithful leaders will be given increased opportunities and responsibilities.

These leaders are also servant leaders who care for those they are working for, working under and working beside, while placing each of your needs above their own.

The more resources we are given, the more talents we are blessed with and the more understanding we have, the more we are required to use these talents and resources to the best of our ability.

I ran for office in 2016 using the theme “Together We Can,” so far this has worked successfully. I believe it will be true again as we work together to have the best year the League has ever had.

Thank you, and may God bless each of you. ■



# The League Welcomes New Vice President

2023 Business Session • May 12 • Birmingham

Mayor Mark Saliba, Dothan • ALM Vice President 2023-2024

**M**ark Saliba, mayor of Dothan, was elected to serve as the Alabama League of Municipalities' vice president for 2023-2024 at the annual convention on May 12, 2023. Vice President Saliba was first elected mayor of Dothan in 2017 and was reelected in 2021.

"I am pleased to be able to serve as vice president of the Alabama League of Municipalities during the coming year. I look forward to working alongside President Randy Garrison to further the goals of the League throughout the state of Alabama, as well as advocate for the League's common interests," Vice President Saliba said. "I subscribe to the ideal of 'Service Above Self' and will strive to lend support to our members through active participation in the League's initiatives toward the common good."

He recently served as the chair of the League's Committee on State and Federal Legislation for 2022-2023 and represented the second congressional district on the League's Board of Directors, where he continues to serve as vice president.

Vice President Saliba attended both public and independent schools in Dothan before graduating from the University of Alabama with a degree in general management. After graduation in 1982, he returned to Dothan and began work with the family business, Alfred Saliba Corporation as a builder.

He has since been an active member and/or held leadership roles in the following organizations: the National Association of Home Builders, Dothan/Wiregrass Home Builders Association, Home Builders Association of Alabama, Southeast Gas Board of Directors, Hawk-Houston Boys Club Board, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Houston-Henry County Area Crimestoppers Program, Dothan Police Foundation, Houston Academy Board, Eufaula Chamber of Commerce Board, Alabama Home Builders Self Insurers Fund, United Methodist Children's Home Board, Leadership Alabama Class of XXV,

Wiregrass United Way and the Wiregrass Alabama Kidney Foundation.

A strong supporter of public education, Alfred Saliba Corporation has been a part of the Adopt-A-School program, and the Bright Key Initiative sponsoring an Academic Dream Room at Girard Middle School. Vice President Saliba has also been heavily involved in career and technical education as a Dothan Technology Advisory Board member with the city schools, as well as with the county through efforts with their local chamber.

Vice President Saliba is married to Angie Saliba. They have two sons, one daughter and five grandchildren. They are active members of First United Methodist Church of Dothan, where they both are part of the Logos Sunday School Class. He has taught both youth and adult classes there for years. His father, Alfred Saliba, was Dothan's mayor from 1989-1997. ■



# Outgoing Vice President Bids Farewell

2023 Business Session • May 12 • Birmingham

Councilmember Adam Bourne, Chickasaw • ALM Vice President 2022–2023

I faced a tough decision a couple weeks ago between my primary career and my part-time position as a city councilmember. I am sure it is similar to situations each of you have found yourself facing, trying to balance your work lives with your civic roles. I will start a new job as executive director for the Mobile County Personnel Board on May 15, with my last day as a city councilmember on May 14. As such, I will not have the honor of serving as your League president. Like my wife often tells her students, you can have anything you want, just not everything you want.

I would like to thank League President Tony Haygood for his leadership and friendship during my time as vice president. The people of Tuskegee are fortunate to have Mayor Haygood, and I thank them for sharing him with the League.

The people of Chickasaw have been good to me, electing me four times since 2008. Chickasaw is a special place, consisting of about 6,500 residents and a little over four square miles. Chickasaw was founded in 1946 after having been a company town building liberty ships during World War II. Many of the citizens who first elected me in 2008 were from that era. In fact, my next-door neighbor moved to Chickasaw to build those ships for the war effort, our very own “Rosie the Riveter.” Now, many of those citizens have passed away, and our city is transitioning to a new generation of young families. I will long remember and miss my old friends from “the Greatest Generation.”

I also owe a lot to my friends and colleagues on the Chickasaw City Council. I am particularly proud to call Mayor Barry Broadhead and Councilmember Jennifer White two of my closest friends. Serving with them has been the honor of a lifetime.

The past year, as League vice president, has been a whirlwind of work, travel and a little fun. I have enjoyed representing you at national conferences and statewide policymaking committees. I am especially proud of the work we have done on the League’s Board of Directors. From our building, to our government relations team, to our social media presence, every aspect of our League is stronger and more effective than before, and I am proud to have been a small part of it.

This job of ours has never been easy, but it is tougher than ever. As a result, too many officials across state and local government have retired early or will do so soon. In the current Alabama legislative term, 26 percent of legislators are new to state service, mostly due to longtime members declining to serve new terms. We are seeing similar trends in municipal government. There are a lot of reasons for that, but post-pandemic burnout and social media attacks would have to be at the top of the list.

The National League of Cities recently released a report called, “On the Frontlines of Today’s Cities: Trauma, Challenges and Solutions.” The NLC found that 87 percent of local officials surveyed observed an increase in social media attacks on public officials, and 81 percent reported having experienced harassment, threats and violence themselves on social media platforms. NLC Executive Director Clarence Anthony stated in *Forbes Magazine*, “It’s too easy to forget that our local leaders are also human. Along with their titles of ‘mayor,’ ‘councilmember,’ or ‘commissioner,’ they are also parent, friend, neighbor and so much more.”



Citizens are exhausted too. When Pew Research first started tracking confidence in government in 1958, 73 percent of people expressed trust in government. That figure has steadily dropped; in 2022, only 20 percent of Americans felt that way. It is hard to know what to do about this mutual crisis of confidence. Some in federal leadership have suggested measures to make social media providers more accountable for what occurs on their platforms, such as removing the liability shields currently existing in federal law. Others have urged preventing social media companies from purposely making their products addictive. That is all more than we can hope to do in this room, but there is a way for us to address an underlying problem in each of our communities.

We can do more to explain the motivations behind our public service. Many citizens often do not understand why we live our lives in ways that are a little unusual in the modern world. We get out and meet people. We join civic groups. We volunteer our time at ballparks and other community activities. We show up at funerals and weddings, crying and cheering with our friends and constituents. All that seems just a little odd to most citizens who just do not see the reason for extreme community engagement.

Our citizens sometimes assume that we do this because of pay or even status. The League's occasional salary surveys prove that we do not receive much compensation, and I cannot remember the last time someone was impressed at a dinner party by my position as a councilmember. The reality is that we do this because we understand an old ideal that is out of fashion in a world where most believe they can achieve happiness through wealth and idle time. We know that meaning is found in life by taking on responsibility for our families and our communities and telling the truth to those around us.

In his post-presidency, Richard Nixon got a little reflective in an interview, saying:

*"To me, the unhappiest people in the world are those in the watering places, the international watering places like*

*the south coast of France and Newport and Palm Springs and Palm Beach; going to parties every night, playing golf every afternoon, then bridge. Drinking too much, talking too much, thinking too little. Retired. No purpose."*

That is why we do what we do, to leave things better than we found them, to think and struggle our way to better communities, to take on responsibility for our cities. Despite that, some people attack you unjustly as serving for the wrong reasons. I know the truth, that there is a child out there with a chance because of your support of education, a mother with justice because of you, a city with a future because you served, a state on the move because you picked up the mantle of responsibility and leadership when no one else would.

During this Municipal Government Week, I want each of you to know how much you are valued and how much you matter to this state and to our organization. Thank you for your service, and once again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your vice president. ■









# The League recognizes Community Partners



**Cardiac Solutions™**  
It's about saving lives



GOVERNMENT & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



Creating Jobs. Keeping Character.



# our Strategic Partners, and League Programs



## STIFEL



## VOLKERT



# MWCF Board Report • 2023 Business Session • Birmingham

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 717 members.
- Membership renewals have remained steady year over year.
- Net premiums for the 2022 fund year were approximately \$29 million.
- During the October 2022 Board Meeting, the Board of Directors approved a distribution of \$4 million to be given as a renewal dividend to eligible members toward their 2023 premiums.
- Total dividends for all fund years are now in excess of \$81 million.
- Unaudited financial statements show total assets of \$200 million as of January 31, 2023.
- 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 • 2023 Business Session • Birmingham

The Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation is a not-for-profit mutual insurance company that is wholly owned and controlled by its member cities and towns. Five mayors 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 in 1989 and received \$6 million in capital contributions from 233 municipalities, in the years that followed, to get off the ground. Today, AMIC is the premier provider of property and causality insurance for public entities in Alabama and its capitalized members have now received more than \$18.3 million in dividends!

## Speaking of Numbers:

- AMIC has paid out more than \$500,000,000 in claims since 1989
- AMIC insures approximately 95 percent of all public entities in Alabama and has 589 members
- AMIC retains over 99 percent of its business annually
- Assets exceed \$149 million
- Current premiums exceed \$55 million
- And total surplus is over \$64 million
- AMIC also insures more than \$11 billion in property values, 20,000 vehicles and nearly 5,000 police officers

AMIC provides your cities and towns with 41 dedicated in-house staff members and services that range from:

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

We are here to insure the future of **YOUR** local government!

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

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 Louis 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 received several funding requests during the past calendar year and has assisted 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 • 2023 Business Session • Birmingham

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 **CANNOT** 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

***MIS is Alabama's ONLY state tax refund municipal debt recovery program!***

As of December 31, 2022, MIS had:

- More than 247 active participants
- Over 354,000 debts in the system valued at more than \$478 million
- More than 153,000 intercepts with over \$19.7 million disbursed since inception

***We are thrilled to report this was a record setting year for MIS for the number of intercepts made and member disbursements! We are PROUD to provide this service to Alabama's cities and towns!***

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

# Alabama Power Update

**D**uring the League’s 2023 Convention opening session, Alexia Borden, senior vice president of customer and community engagement for Alabama Power (a strategic partner), joined state leaders in addressing municipal officials. This year’s convention was especially impactful for Borden, who just took on a new role overseeing the company’s customer operations team and the local community affairs initiatives carried out by Alabama Power’s six geographic business divisions. Borden shared how Alabama Power CEO Jeff Peoples has identified certain priorities that will drive the company’s approach in continuing community engagement and growth for the state.

“At Alabama Power, we are committed to serving our customers and our state. It’s through partnerships with everyone in this room that we are able to better serve our customers and the people of Alabama,” Borden said.

Some of the priorities include economic development, connectivity and electric vehicles. The company is also striving to build the future of energy with clean energy and grid modernization.

“We are investing in infrastructure and technology, to make our grid smarter and more reliable,” Borden said. “One way we can better serve our communities is by modernizing our grid, and increasing reliability and fiber helps us accomplish this.”

Borden also touched on Alabama Power’s ongoing efforts to connect and elevate Alabama communities. Through fiber deployments and partnerships, citizens of Alabama are seeing significant progress in broadband connectivity. The Alabama Power Foundation continues to build a legacy in the state, supporting student outcomes and economic vitality in underserved communities. Grant programs, including the Good Roots Grant and Gateway Grant, help showcase the rich culture and beauty of our communities. Learn more at [www.powerofgood.com](http://www.powerofgood.com).

Additionally, the company is making significant technological progress in creating digital tools for customers. Through outage alerts and the outage map, customers and city leaders can receive moment-to-moment data on the number and locations of outages. Other digital tools enable customers to view their power usage, manage their accounts and stay more informed at [www.alabamapower.com/digitaltools](http://www.alabamapower.com/digitaltools).

Borden ended by thanking the League and its partners: “I’d like to say again how grateful we are at Alabama Power for the work you all do in our communities and for your leadership in elevating our state.” ■



# General Session Keynote Speakers

The 2023 Alabama League of Municipalities' Convention featured two captivating general session keynote speakers.

Steve Edwards, the managing director and senior investment strategist at Morgan Stanley, gave members great insight on the future of the economy during his speech, entitled "Preparing for Landing: Gauging the U.S. Economy and Investment Implications for 2023 and Beyond," on May 10. Steve has over 15 years of investment experience at Bridgewater Associates, Spruce Private Investors, Frontera Management, AIS Capital Management and Morgan Stanley.

Dr. Arturo Menefee had the crowd on its feet dancing, laughing and fully engaged, on the morning of May 11, during his presentation on "Emotional Intelligence and The Municipal Leader." Dr. Menefee, the director of leadership development for The University of Alabama Center for Economic Development, has more than fifteen years of professional and academic experience in leadership, community, diversity, health, workforce and economic development.

We were delighted to have both of them attend our conference! ■



# Ask Your Attorney

2023 General Session • May 12 • Birmingham

## ALM Legal Department

The “Ask Your Attorney” session is always popular at convention and gives everyone in attendance a sampling of the types of questions we answer day in and day out in the League’s Legal Department. Below are some of the questions answered during the “Ask Your Attorney” session on May 12, 2023. The League’s Legal Department is available during regular business hours to answer your questions and provide you with legal guidance.

### Can the city give city employees bonuses?

The short answer is *no*. Section 68 of the Alabama Constitution, 1901, prohibits municipalities from giving city employees bonuses. The Alabama attorney general, however, has opined that municipalities may provide a one-time lump sum raise or salary supplement to municipal employees to be paid at a certain time of year as a regular part of their compensation. This payment must be set in advance and considered to be a portion of the employees regular compensation. AGO 81-00242. This lump sum raise or salary supplement should be done pursuant to an adopted written personnel policy. AGO 88-00392.

### How does a councilmember raise an objection to a perceived error in the proceedings of a council meeting?

Alabama law requires that the council determine the rules for its own proceedings. See Ala. Code Section 11-43-52 (1975).

Most municipal governing bodies in Alabama adopt Robert’s Rules of Order as the rules of procedure for situations which cannot be resolved by council rules of procedure.

Points of order must relate to mistakes, errors or a failure to comply with the rules. Pursuant to Robert’s Rules of Order, when a councilmember believes that a discussion or action by the body is procedurally incorrect, the member may raise a “point of order.” A point of order does not require a second, since requests of the presiding officer do not require seconds, and it is not open to discussion or debate.

The point of order is directed at the chair and allows the councilmember to point out the perceived procedural mistake. The chair must respond with a ruling that the member is either correct or incorrect. This may be done by the chair alone or, upon request of the chair, by vote of the council.

If the chair rules that the member is correct, the chair must order the correct procedures be followed. If the chair rules that the member is incorrect, any two councilmembers have the right to appeal from the chair’s ruling. By one councilmember making the appeal and another seconding it, the question is taken from the chair and vested in council for final decision. If this occurs, the decision as to what constitutes a proper procedure is decided by a vote of the council. A tie vote sustains the chair’s ruling.



### Can the council pass a resolution designating discretionary funds to individual councilmembers?

Yes, however, the League cautions city councils on passing such resolutions. Importantly, the council designating discretionary funds to individual councilmembers does not circumvent the restrictions against the spending of municipal funds by the council as a whole. For example, the council as a body will still need to follow the procedures of Section 94.01 of the Alabama Constitution, 1901, prior to an individual councilmember granting discretionary municipal funds in aid of a **private** entity or individual. The League encourages individual councilmembers designated discretionary funds to consult with their municipal attorney and other councilmembers prior to exercising their discretion in spending the funds.

### How often should financial reports be provided to the council?

Alabama law requires the treasurer (often the city clerk) to make a report once a month or more often, if required by the council, of the financial condition of the account of each department and make a quarterly statement, under oath, of the financial condition of the city or town to the council. See Ala. Code Section 11-43-120 (1975).

In addition, as chief executive, the mayor must present a written statement to the council at least once every six months to show the financial condition of the city or town – particularly the temporary floating indebtedness of the municipality and the purpose for which this temporary debt was incurred and proposals to protect the credit of the city or town. 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 in order to facilitate supervision of the activities of the various departments and officials of the municipality and to assist the mayor in making reports to the council. See Ala. Code Section 11-43-84 (1975).

### Do councilmembers and the mayor have a right to review any and all municipal records?

Generally, municipal officials have no greater rights to inspect records than do members of the public. If the record is not available to citizens, then it's most likely not available to individual municipal officials. Only those officials and employees, pursuant to their official duties, who must view a record that is not public should be allowed access. The records custodian (primarily the city clerk) is subject to the taxpayer bill of rights and other confidentiality provisions such as protecting sensitive payroll/individual employee information. No one should have access to this type of information unless it is directly related to official town business. While the council, acting as a whole by majority vote, has the right to

request to see certain documents, individual officials must demonstrate their interest in order to review records, just like private citizens. This means individual officials must go through the public record procedure set by the municipality (i.e. submittance of a public record request form) to review municipal records.

The attorney general's office held that the mayor may review all documents of the business of the town necessary for him or her to carry out his or her duties as mayor and manage the affairs of the town. However, the review of documents must be for a legitimate purpose and the integrity of the record must be maintained. AGO 2000-053. ■





# 2023 Distinguished Service Awards

Presented May 10 at the 2023 Annual Convention • Birmingham

For many years, the Alabama League of Municipalities has presented the Distinguished Service Award to mayors and councilmembers to recognize 20, 30, 40 and 50 years of service milestones. We were thrilled to continue that tradition and honor five of our colleagues on their accomplishment during the opening session of convention on May 10, 2023.

- **Ronnie Whitehead**, councilmember for the city of Ashford, for **20 years** of service
- **Tami Myers**, mayor of the town of Dutton, for **20 years** of service
- **Charles Allen**, councilmember for the city of Thomasville, for **30 years** of service
- **Sheldon Day**, mayor of the city of Thomasville, for **30 years** of service
- **Charles David Proctor**, councilmember for the city of Lineville, for **40 years** of service



*Pictured left to right, ALM Executive Director Greg Cochran, Ashford Councilmember Ronnie Whitehead, Lineville Councilmember Charles David Proctor, Thomasville Mayor Sheldon Day, Thomasville Councilmember Charles Allen, Dutton Mayor Tami Myers and ALM President Tony Haygood pose for a group Distinguished Service Awards honoree photo.*



# 2022 Municipal Clerk of the Year

## Congratulations to Tameeka Vann

for winning the Alabama Association of Municipal Clerks and Administrators' 2022 Municipal Clerk of the Year Award! Tameeka serves as the municipal clerk/treasurer, purchasing agent, grant administrator, mayor's executive assistant, planning and zoning commissioner, building maintenance supervisor and human resources director for the city of Center Point. Her expertise in these areas has helped the city operate more efficiently and effectively. Additionally, Tameeka has made significant contributions to the Alabama Association of Municipal Clerks and Administrators over the years. She has served as the sponsorship committee chairperson, treasurer, secretary and president-elect, where she has helped guide the association toward its goals.



## Register for Our New FIREARMS TRAINING SYSTEM!

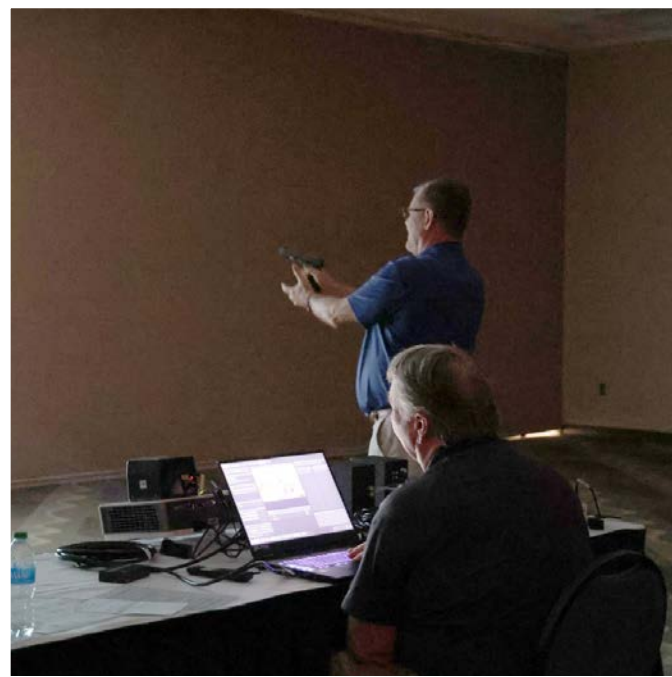
Contact Loss Control Today

The Loss Control Division is excited to offer Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC) and Municipal Workers Compensation Fund (MWCF) members access to our new state-of-the-art Firearms Training System (FATS)!

FATS is a computer-based video interactive system that provides real-life scenarios that call for split-second decisions. It is an excellent training tool designed to develop and sharpen a law enforcement officer's discretionary skills as well as re-enforce conflict resolution abilities.

This system is available to our members throughout the year on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that this service is limited to delivery of the system and providing instruction on how to use the equipment.

To request the FATS system, please visit [losscontrol.org](http://losscontrol.org). For more information about this service, please contact Donna Wagner at 334-386-8125 or [DWagner@almonline.org](mailto:DWagner@almonline.org).



### Pricing for FATS Training:

**AMIC Member** - \$25.00 per person

**MWCF Member** - \$25.00 per person

**ALM Only Member** - \$35.00 per person

**Standard Rate** - \$55.00 per person

# 2023 CMO Regional Training

June 22 – Dothan • July 13 – Athens • July 27 – Montgomery

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

Join other elected officials and municipal personnel for one of the remaining 2023 CMO Regional Training sessions. The League’s Legal Team will lead three more training sessions on fundamental topics in municipal government, a legislative update and additional presentations. You can view the agenda and additional information here: [almonline.org/UpcomingTraining](http://almonline.org/UpcomingTraining). The registration fee for each event is \$150. Officials should only register for one of the regional training sessions as the agenda is the same for each event.



## ALM Launches Online Member Portal

Good news! The League has a new website feature, the **Member Portal**, where members can sign in to view and download their Certified Municipal Official transcripts, view and print open invoices and register for events. Elected officials asked for the ability to track their progress in the CMO Program, and **we heard you!** Of course, we are always available to answer your questions by phone call or email, but now CMO transcripts are accessible on demand. Transcripts include detailed training and credit hour history you have completed. Please allow 45 days following submission of an online credit form or anytime training test for credit hours to be reflected on the transcript.



Before you can sign in to the member portal, you will need a unique username and password. If you do not have one or are not sure you have one, contact our office for assistance at (334) 262-2566. Please remember the 2023 CMO graduation credit hour qualification deadline is July 31, 2023.

Scan the QR code or visit [youtube.com/user/MyALMTV](https://youtube.com/user/MyALMTV) to watch a “how to” video that will walk you through accessing CMO transcripts.

### Quick Links



Municipal Directory



Legal Department



Advocacy



Member Portal



Journal Archives



Training and Resources

# 2023 Convention Sponsors, Break Sponsors and EXPO Exhibitors

The League thanks the following Convention Sponsors:



FRAZER LANIER



PIPER | SANDLER  
Realize the power of partnership.



Nationwide  
is on your side



RIVERTREE SYSTEMS, INC.  
GOVERNMENTAL AUDITING SERVICES



SYNOVUS



The League thanks the following Break Sponsors:

Alabama First Responders Benefits Program • ARO Risk Solutions, Inc. • Ball, Ball, Matthews & Novak, P.A.  
Berryhill & Mitchell, P.C. • Byars Wright, Inc. • Carlisle Medical • Corporate Pharmacy Services, Inc.  
Direct Pay Provider Network, LLC • Hill Hill Carter Franco Cole & Black, P.C. • Holt Insurance Agency  
Insurance Planning Services • Insurance Solutions Group • IT Case Management  
John A. Robertson Insurance Agency • Johnstone Adams, LLC • Knowles & Sullivan, LLC  
Lanier Ford Shaver & Payne, P.C. • Petra RMS • Thames Batré Insurance • USI Insurance Services, LLC  
Vernis & Bowling • VONA Case Management

The League also thanks our EXPO Exhibitors:

- A Healthy You, A Healthy Farm  
(Alabama Dept. of Agriculture and Industries)
- AARP Alabama
- ACCS Innovation Center - Skills for Success
- ADEM
- Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.
- Alabama 811
- Alabama Association of Municipal Clerks  
and Administrators
- Alabama Association of Regional Councils
- Alabama Attorney General's Consumer Affairs Office
- Alabama City County Management Association  
(ACCMA)
- Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition
- Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE)
- Alabama Correctional Industries
- Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries
- Alabama Department of Archives and History
- Alabama Department of Revenue
- Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)
- Alabama First Responders Benefits Program (ALFRBP)
- Alabama Forestry Commission
- Alabama Industries for the Blind
- Alabama Manufactured Housing Association
- Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association
- Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation (AMFund)
- Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC)
- Alabama Municipal Revenue Officers

- Alabama Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board
- Alabama Power
- Alabama Recreation and Parks Association
- Alabama Tourism Department
- American Fidelity
- AMIC/MWCF Loss Control Services
- AMWASTE, LLC
- Apptegy
- Arrow Disposal Service, Inc.
- ARSEA/APEAL
- AT&T
- Avenu Insights & Analytics
- Bandit Industries, Inc.
- Bearing Advisors, LLC
- Benchmark Companies
- C Spire
- Cadence Bank Equipment Finance
- Carr, Riggs & Ingram CPAs and Advisors
- CDG, Inc.
- Certified Municipal Official Program
- Civil Southeast, LLC
- Clear Winds Technologies
- ClearWater Solutions
- CMH Architects, Inc.
- Columbia Southern University
- Consolidated Pipe & Supply, Inc.
- Converged Networks, Inc.
- Corrective Asphalt Materials, LLC
- CSA Software Solutions
- Dixie Decorations, Inc.
- ESG Operations, Inc.
- Giffen Recreation, Inc.
- GoRescue Brands, Inc.
- GovDeals, Inc.
- Grasshopper Company
- Great Southern Recreation
- Ground Works Distribution
- Holiday Designs
- Ingram Equipment Company
- IT in a Box
- Jackson Thornton
- Jefferson County Councilors Coalition
- Jubilee Decor, LLC
- Keep Alabama Beautiful
- Kel-Ar Consulting
- KORKAT
- LaBella Associates
- Lathan Architects
- LBYD, Inc.
- Local Government Health Insurance Board
- Local Impact Analytics
- Main Street Alabama
- Master Meter, Inc.
- Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC
- MOST DEPENDABLE FOUNTAINS
- Municipal Intercept Services, LLC (MIS)
- Municipal Workers Compensation Fund (MWCF)
- Musco Sports Lighting
- NAFECO
- Nationwide
- New Line Skateparks
- Nexbillpay, LLC
- NovoaGlobal, Inc.
- Outdoor Aluminum, Inc.
- Playworld Preferred, Inc.
- PNC Bank
- Radarsign, LLC
- Recreational Concepts
- Regions Bank
- Retail Strategies
- Retirement Systems of Alabama
- Rivertree Systems, Inc.
- Sansom Equipment Company, Inc.
- Scout Program Management
- Southeast Cement Promotion Association
- Southern Pipe & Supply Co., Inc.
- Southern Software, Inc.
- Spring City Electrical
- Struthers Recreation
- Sunbelt Fire, Inc.
- Sustainability Partners
- Synergetics DCS
- TEKConnectGov
- The Frazer Lanier Company, Inc.
- The Retail Coach, LLC
- TheGovApp.com
- Thermal Hunting
- Thompson Engineering
- ThreatAdvice
- TOC-The Orthopaedic Center
- Trantex, Inc.
- TriGreen Equipment, LLC
- Tristatz
- Truckworx
- Twin States Recreation, LLC
- United Rentals
- USDA Rural Development
- Valley Bank
- Vector Disease Control International (VDCI)
- Volkert, Inc.
- Vortex Aquatic Structures International
- WAS Design, Inc.
- Waste Management
- Workday

# In Memory

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

- Randall Gilliland, Town of Susan Moore mayor
- Garland “Kenny” Hicks, Centreville councilmember
- Ronnie “Doc” Hudson, Hackleburg councilmember
- Christopher Jones, Uniontown mayor
- Walter Longmire Sr., River Falls councilmember
- Roger McCondichie, Brookside mayor
- Robert Morris, Jemison councilmember
- John Morrow, Orville councilmember
- William Edmond “Eddy” Posey, Winfield councilmember
- Anthony Todd, Dodge City mayor
- James Wayne Tucker, Springville councilmember

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

- Charles Beasley, former Clayton councilmember
- Jesse W. Brannen, former Phenix City councilmember
- Dicey Childers, former Blountsville councilmember
- Philip Contorno, former Hueytown councilmember
- Wilbon Davis, former Sweet Water mayor
- John Dupree, former Muscle Shoals councilmember
- Hattie Gilmore-Edwards, former Eutaw mayor and councilmember
- Joe Robert Evans Sr., former Florala mayor
- Richard Fleming, former Enterprise councilmember
- Bobby Freeman, former Opelika mayor
- John Glanton Jr., former Dothan city commissioner
- Donald E. Green, former Cullman mayor and councilmember
- Gene Hall, former Prattville councilmember
- Lenwood Herron, former New Brockton mayor
- Charlene Blunt Holloway, former LaFayette councilmember
- Charlie “Cuz” Johnson, former Luverne councilmember
- Robert Jones, former Troy councilmember
- Jimmie W. Lay, former Tarrant councilmember
- Robert “Bobby” McCartney Jr., former Rainbow City councilmember
- John C. “Jack” Nicholson, former Jasper mayor
- Larry Nunn, former Rainbow City councilmember
- Terry Oden, former Mountain Brook mayor
- William Rayfield, former Harpersville councilmember
- Archie Rice, former Skyline mayor
- Mike Robison, former Sweet Water mayor
- Lorse Henry Saffold, former Gordon councilmember
- Billy Thames, former Beatrice councilmember
- Loxcil Tuck, former Tarrant mayor
- Joel Washington, former Moody councilmember
- Lanis White, former Ragland mayor and councilmember
- Burwell “Sonny” Wilbanks, former Madison mayor
- Samie Wiley, former Hartselle mayor and councilmember
- Marvin Williams, former Elberta mayor
- Garry Dale Young, former Hokes Bluff councilmember



# 2023 Municipal Flag Showcase Participants

Bay Minette ★ Brundidge ★ Childersburg

Clio ★ Daleville ★ Florence ★ Foley ★ Glen Allen

Gulf Shores ★ Hammondville ★ Harpersville ★ Hartselle

Helena ★ Jasper ★ Lisman ★ Midland City ★ Millport

Orrville ★ Owens Cross Roads ★ Ozark ★ Phenix City

Thomasville ★ Tuskegee ★ Warrior



# Thank you for your hospitality, Birmingham!



The Alabama League of Municipalities extends sincere appreciation to the city of Birmingham for their help with organizing convention activities and a beautiful welcome reception at Sloss Furnaces. Over 800 municipal officials, staff, partners and guests attended the 2023 Annual Convention and Expo. We are grateful to Wardine Alexander, president of the Birmingham City Council, for delivering an enthusiastic welcome to the Magic City and for hosting a fun NBC-LEO reception. We also thank the Hoover High School JROTC and the Hoover High School Chamber Choir for doing an incredible job posting the colors, leading the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the national anthem.

**JOIN US IN HUNTSVILLE**

**MAY 15 - 18 CONVENTION 2024**

ALABAMA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES  
**ALM**  
1985





# Thank you League team members for your countless hours of preparation and work during convention to ensure its success!



Photo: Governor's Office, Hal Yeager



# It's that simple.

AMFund was created to assist Alabama's cities and towns to obtain affordable financing for almost any size municipal project. If you are considering AMFund as financing for your project, check out our website -

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

- and look over our Frequently Asked Questions page. If your question is not answered, feel free to email us with questions regarding your particular situation.



Complete application.

Provide 3 most recent audits.

Sign and Submit.

Another value-added service provided by your Alabama League of Municipalities



## Alabama's only state tax refund municipal debt recovery program

**(FREE to eligible participating members!)**

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

### Why use Municipal Intercept Services (MIS) when you already have a debt collection service?

MIS is **NOT** a debt collection agency or service. MIS does not do what debt collection services do and debt collection services cannot offer what MIS does. 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 CANNOT offer you this service. MIS is a legislatively sanctioned conduit with the Alabama Department of Revenue (ADOR) that enables ADOR to recover delinquent debts owed by individuals to your municipality by collecting this debt from the individual's Alabama state tax refund. This system was made possible by an Alabama legislative change enacted in 2014 through which ADOR agreed to process these debts through only two clearinghouse organizations: the Alabama League of Municipalities (ALM) for municipal entities and the Association of County Commissions of Alabama (ACCA) for county entities. In 2015, ALM formed MIS to act as the clearinghouse on behalf of its municipal entities. **NOTE:** If the debtor is not eligible for an Alabama State tax refund, no money can be collected.

### Who is eligible to use the MIS system?

Only municipal entities within Alabama are eligible to use the MIS system. This includes cities, towns, certain utility boards, housing authorities and hospitals. **For more information, visit: [www.alintercept.org](http://www.alintercept.org).**

Alabama League of Municipalities  
PO Box 1270  
Montgomery, AL 36102

Presorted Std.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Montgomery, AL  
**PERMIT NO. 340**

# Add Peace of Mind

The Municipal Worker's Compensation Fund has been serving Alabama's Municipalities since 1976 and is the second oldest league insurance pool in the nation!



- Directed by Veteran Municipal Officials from Alabama
- Over 600 Participating Municipal Entities
- Free Safety Video Library & Online Training
- Since 1976, MWCF has returned over \$81 million to its members as Renewal Dividends.
- Free Medical Cost Containment Program
- New Member Discounts
- Loss Control Services, Including:
  - Skid Car Training Courses
  - Fire Arms Training System
- Claims Analysis
- Safety Discounts Available



**Contact Us!**  
Quick Quotes  
available online.  
[www.almwcf.org](http://www.almwcf.org)

**Richard Buttenshaw**  
President, MWCF  
P.O. Box 1270  
Montgomery, AL 36102  
334-262-2566

**Terry Young**  
Marketing Manager, MWCF  
P.O. Box 43769  
Birmingham, AL 35243  
1-888-736-0210  
email: [tyoung@mrm-llc.com](mailto:tyoung@mrm-llc.com)