Police Chiefs’ Advisory Committee Enters 13th Year

By: Niko Corley, Communications Coordinator, ALM

2006 marks the thirteenth year the Police Chiefs’ Advisory Committee has served AMIC, MWCF and Alabama’s municipalities in bettering law enforcement in the state. At several meetings each year, committee members discuss law enforcement topics and tactics for improving how Alabama’s police departments carry out their numerous tasks.

Beginning in 1994, the committee offered training on law enforcement subjects for police chiefs at the League’s annual convention. Five years later, in 1999, the committee went to the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police (AACOP) with the idea of jointly creating an education committee to administer and oversee a more organized and consistent police chiefs’ training program, and in August of 2000, the Certified Law Enforcement Executive Program (CLEEP) was launched.

“It has really grown since then [2000] and allowed us to provide a certification program for Alabama’s police chiefs,” Roger Owens, education committee member and AMIC/MWCF police safety consultant, said.

Similar to the League’s Certified Municipal Official Program, where attendees gain credit hours toward certification for attending seminars, CLEEP training sessions address issues police chiefs face, covering everything from dealing with domestic violence to use of force to pursuit, to name a few.

Last year alone, CLEEP had 564 participants. Any active, full-time police chief in Alabama who is a member of good standing with AACOP is eligible for the program, and all executive-level administrators, with the approval of the chief of their department, may also attend CLEEP (however, administrators will not be certified until they become chiefs themselves and AACOP members of good standing).

success speaks for itself.

“They [police chiefs] are going to train officers to be better officers and to look for ways to lower liability,” Mangham said.

From an insurance and workers’ compensation standpoint CLEEP is extremely valuable, educating chiefs and, in turn, police officers in tactics for reducing the liability of cities and departments. Mangham says while the need for police chief education wasn’t always understood or appreciated for its value, CLEEP’s success speaks for itself.

“Even the people who were negative toward it in the beginning have changed their minds … it’s the only way to become a professional [law enforcement] organization,” Mangham said.

In addition to CLEEP, the education committee also offers a mentoring program where veteran police chiefs volunteer their time and talents to help new chiefs become accustomed to running a department, resulting in better law enforcement in Alabama.

“The program allows us to help those less fortunate cities by sharing with them information, materials and expertise,” Owens said.

Between CLEEP and the police chief mentoring program, there’s no question as to the education committee’s dedication to police department improvement in the state.

“The committee does a lot of good,” Owens said. “They are a dedicated group that comes together to better law enforcement and to help all cities be safer and less libelous.”

For more information, visit www.aacop.com.
Driving a Work Vehicle

Driving a work vehicle is a privilege for employees, not a right. Furthermore, the public entity should have a policy in place that reports the driver history of people responsible for driving vehicles on a regular basis.

There are two ways to obtain this information: (1) require all employees to provide this information as a condition of employment, or (2) contact the Alabama Department of Public Safety and sign up for online access to driver records.

The Department of Public Safety provides online access to driver records to approved businesses, including municipalities and public corporations.

In order to access this service, the municipality must become an Alabama Interactive Service Subscriber. More information about this service and the forms required for subscription can be found on the state of Alabama's web site, www.alabama.gov, under the “Online Services” section, Business Services. Or, contact Alabama Interactive Customer Service at (866) 353-egov (3468) or at customerservice@alabamainteractive.org.

While checking driver history should positively impact auto liability insurance premiums, above all else, checking driver history protects the safety of employees and the public.
AMIC Welcomes New Employees

AMIC announces the arrival of two new employees to its claims department: Nancy Phillips and Martha Matthews

Nancy Phillips, who joins AMIC as claims clerk, received her paralegal certificate from the National Academy of Paralegal Studies, Inc. at Troy State University’s Montgomery campus. She has attended professional development courses in computers and personnel and employment law and is proficient in Microsoft programs such as “Excel” and “Legal Files.” Most recently, Phillips worked for Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C. as a legal secretary in the fraud department for civil litigation attorneys. Her responsibilities included maintaining files, reviewing and analyzing documents, drafting correspondence and pleadings, investigations and general administrative filing. Phillips has done similar civil litigation work for several other law firms, including Rushton, Stakely, Johnston & Garrett, P.A., and Webb, Crumpton, McGregor, Davis & Alley.

Martha C. Matthews, who comes to AMIC as a senior claims adjuster, graduated from Auburn University in Montgomery and has had extensive training from organizations such as the Insurance Institute of America, the Alabama Bar Institute and the Defense Research Institute. Matthews last served as senior claims representative for Meadowbrook Insurance Group/Association of Self-Insurance Services, Inc. in Montgomery. Prior to her employment there, she was the liability claims manager for Meadowbrook. She has experience in managing a claims staff while investigating and maintaining a full load of claims. Her past duties have included managing an average caseload of 130 claims per month as the liability claims manager; investigating and negotiating claims; and establishing good relationships with new account members.

Matthews has also worked for Crawford and Company as a claims clerk where she helped make a trial project for the branch office a success throughout the Southeast. She was later promoted to an adjuster position until she completed Crawford and Company’s six-week training school after which she handled property and casualty claims.

Congratulations, and welcome to the AMIC team!

Is All Your Property Covered?

Do you know if all of your municipality’s property is insured?

Have you recently built a new building or bought a new vehicle?

Has your municipality been given a piece of property or land as a gift?

Does your insurance carrier know about it?

With the amount of hurricane damage Alabama sustained over the past two years, some municipalities found out the hard way that not everything they thought was insured was covered. It is critical for municipalities to check their coverage schedules and make sure everything they want insured is listed.

Every year, 90 days before the expiration date, AMIC sends out a pre-renewal coverage schedule with a renewal letter asking for any changes that need to be made. This schedule lists everything covered on the policy, including property, inland marine, liability, crime and auto insurance. This list is sent out every year, even to those of you with three-year policies. It is your responsibility to check and make certain the list is complete and up to date. If in doubt, call your agent and ask them any questions you have about your coverage.

Whenever a municipality receives any new property, be it a new structure you have built or a piece of land given to you by a generous citizen, please remember you need to contact your agent to make sure you get coverage for it. Don’t get caught in the rain when the next storm comes. Make sure all your property is covered.

Risk Management Awards for 2005

Instituting risk management and loss control activities by the members of the Municipal Workers Compensation Fund (MWCF) and the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC) are considered to be proactive steps that benefit not only the member’s loss ratio but the overall success of the MWCF and AMIC insurance programs. Not only are employee, property and liability losses minimized, but – most importantly – employees and citizens reap the rewards of a safer workplace and community.

In recognition of the efforts and successes of our members, the Board of Directors of the MWCF and AMIC approved the establishment of a Risk Management Award during 2002. It was determined that an award program would be developed based on the loss ratios for the member’s prior year. For those members of both the MWCF and AMIC programs, the loss ratios would be combined and divided by two to reflect the overall loss ratio.

Four levels of awards are being presented to acknowledge the efforts and accomplishments of those members in the areas of Risk Management for the year 2005. Members are eligible to receive the Presidents Award once every five years and the Gold, Silver and Bronze annually.

• ALM President’s Award; Top 5% for 5 years
• Gold Award; Loss Ratio below 5%
• Silver Award; Loss Ratio of 5% to 20%
• Bronze Award; Loss Ratio of 20% to 40%

Awards were mailed to the recipients along with a press release. Recipients of these awards are being acknowledged in this issue of the Risk Management Solutions newsletter and at the League Convention.
2005 Risk Management Awards

ALM President’s Awards (Top 5% for 5 years)

Anderson
Anniston Housing Authority
Asbury Water Board
Autauga/Prattville Library
Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center
Bridgeport Housing Authority
Calera Waterworks
Camden
Coker
County Line
Cullman-Jefferson Counties Gas District
Dothan
Double Springs Waterworks Board
East Brewton Waterworks & Sewer
Fultondale Gas Board
Gordo Water Board
Health
Kansas
Moulton Housing Authority
Moulton Water & Sewer Board
Nectar
Northeast Alabama Water & Sewer
Phil Campbell Housing Authority
Pleasant Groves
Red Bay
Red Bay Water & Gas
Reform
Roanoke Utility Board
Russellville Gas Board
Samson
Skyline
Tarrant Electric Department
Tuscaloosa Housing Authority
Tuscaloosa Parking & Transit
Authority
Uniontown
Vredenburg
Wetumpka

Gold Awards (Loss ratio below 5%)

Abbeville Housing Authority
Abbeville Water & Sewer
Alabama Municipal Election Authority
Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission
Alexander City Housing Authority
Aliceville Housing Authority
Aliceville Water & Sewer
Altoona
Andalusia Housing Authority
Anderson
Arab Housing Authority
Arab Water Works Board
Anton
Arely
Asbury Water Board
Ashland
Ashland Water & Sewer Board
Ashville Water & Sewer Board
Attalla Housing Authority
Attalla Waterworks
Autauga/Prattville Library
Baileyton
Baker Hill
Bay Minette Housing Authority
Bear Creek Development Authority
Beatrice
Belk
Berry Gas Board
Berry Housing Authority
Birmingham Housing Authority
Birmingham Regional Planning Commission
Birmingham Regional Planning Commission Senior Aide
Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center
Black Warrior Solid Waste Authority
Blountsville Housing Authority
Boaz Water & Sewer Board
Bolling
Boston Housing Authority
Branchville
Brent Housing Authority
Brent Utilities
Brewton Housing Authority
Brewton Natural Gas
Bridgeport Housing Authority
Bristol
Brunswick County
BUND
Bundridge Housing Authority
Butler Utilities
Calera Housing Authority
Calera Waterworks
Camp Hill Utilities
Carbon Hill Housing Authority
Center Point
Central Alabama Regional Planning Commission
Centreville Water Works & Sewer Board
 Cherokee Waterworks & Gas Board
Chickasaw Housing Authority
Childrens Housing Authority
Clanton Housing Authority
Clayton Housing Authority
Clayton Water & Sewer
Coaling
Coffeeville Waterworks
Coker
Columbia
Columbia County
Columbiana County
Cumberland Housing Authority
Cumberland Waterworks
Cordova Housing Authority
Cordova Water & Gas Board
Cottonwood
Cottonwood Housing Authority
County Line
Craig Field Airport Authority
Crossville Water Board
Cullman Housing Authority
Cullman-Jefferson Counties Gas District
Dadeville Housing Authority
Daleville Housing Authority
Deatsville
Deatsville VFD, Inc.
Decatur Municipal Utility Board
Decatur Personnel Board
Demopolis Housing Authority
Detroit
Dodge City
Dora Waterworks & Gas Board
Dothan
Dothan Housing Authority
Double Springs Waterworks Board
Dutton
East Brewton Waterworks & Sewer
East Central Alabama Gas District
East Central Alabama Solid Waste Disposal
East Geneva Co. Senior Citizens Committee
Elba Housing Authority
Eldridge
Elkmont
Elmore
Elmore County Economic Development
Elmore Water Authority
Enterprise Housing Authority
Eufaula Housing Development
Eutaw Housing Authority
Eva
Evergreen Housing Authority
Fairview
Fayette Gas Board
Fayette Housing Authority
Five Points
Florala Housing Authority
Florence Housing Authority
Foley Housing Authority
Forkland
Fort Payne Housing Authority
Fort Payne Improvement Authority
Fultondale Gas Board
Gadsden Airport Authority
Gainsville
Gantt
Gatlinburg
Geiger
Georgiana Housing Authority
Georgiana Water & Sewer
Glencoe
Glencoe Water & Sewer
Glenwood
Goldville
Good Hope
Goodwater Housing Authority
Goodwater Waterworks & Sewer
Gordo Housing Authority
Gordo Water Board
Gordon
Goshen
Governmental Utility Services
(Bessemer)
Grant
Graysville Water & Sewer Board
Greene County Ambulance Service
Greensboro Housing Authority
Greensboro Utility Board
Grove Hill Memorial Hospital
Guin Housing Authority
Hackleburg Housing Authority
Haleyville Housing Authority
Hammondville
Harpersville Water Board
Hartselle Housing Authority
Hayden
Headland Housing Authority
Health
Heflin
Heflin Housing Authority
Heflin Water & Sewer
Helena Utilities
Highland Lake
Hobson City Housing Authority
Huntsville-Madison County Airport
Indian Springs
Jackson’s Gap
Jacksonville Water Works, Gas/ Sewer
Kanseas
Kennedy
Killearn
Langston
Leeds Housing Authority
Leesburg
Leighton
Leighton Water Works & Sewer Board
Linden Housing Authority
Linden Utilities
Lineville Water & Sewer
Littleville
Loxley
Lowndesboro
Malvern
Maplesville
Maplesville Water Works & Gas Board
Marion Housing Authority
Maytown
Menlo
Midland City
Midland City Housing Authority
Midway
Millport
Millport Housing Authority
Monroeville Housing Authority
Montevallo Water & Sewer
Montgomery Housing Authority
Morris
Moulton
Moulton Housing Authority
Moulton Water & Sewer Board
Mulga
Munford
Myrtlewood
Nauvoo
Nauvoo Waterworks
Nectar
New Brockton Housing Authority
New Hope
New Site
Newbern
Newton
Newton Housing Authority
Newton Water & Sewer
North Alabama Gas District
Northeast Alabama Water & Sewer
Northwest Alabama Council of Local Government Auto
Northwest Alabama Gas District
Oak Grove
Oakman
Odenville Utilities
Ohathee
Oneonta Housing Authority
Oneonta Utilities
Opelika Housing Authority
Opp Housing Authority
Orville
Owens Cross Roads
Oxford Water & Sewer Board
Ozark Dale Co, E-911
Ozark Housing Authority
Parrish Housing Authority
Parrish Water & Sewer Board
Pell City Housing Authority
Pennington Utilities
Phil Campbell Housing Authority
Pickens County Gas
Pickensville
Piedmont Housing Authority
Pike Road
Pickwick
Pleasant Groves
Prattville Solid Waste Authority
Prattville Waterworks
Prichard Housing Authority
Ragland Housing Authority
Ragland Water Works & Gas
Rainbow City Utilities Board
Ranburn
Red Bay Housing Authority
Red Bay Water & Gas
Reece City
Reform Housing Authority
Reform Water & Sewer Board
Rehobeth
Ridgetop
Riverside
Roanoke
Roanoke Housing Authority
Roanoke Utility Board
Rockford Gas Board
Rockford Waterworks
Rogersville
Rogersville Waterworks & Sewer
Russellville Electric Board
Russellville Gas Board
Russellville Housing Authority
Saint Florian
Samson Housing Authority
Saraland Water Service
Sardis City
Scottsboro Housing Authority
Selma Water & Sewer
Skyline
Slocomb Housing Authority
South Central Alabama Development Commission
South Central Alabama Development Commission/Senior Aides Division
South Central Alabama Regional Housing Authority
South Vinemont
Southside Waterworks Board
Spanish Fort
Spirit of Anniston Main Street Program, Inc.
Stevenson
Storm Water Management Authority
Sulligent Housing Authority
Sumiton Gas Board
Sumiton Water Board
Sweet Water Water Works
Talladega Springs
Talladega Water & Sewer Board
Tarrant Housing Authority
Taylor
Thomaston Water & Gas
Thorsby
Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments
Trayford
Tri Community Water System
Triana
Triana Housing Authority
Trinity
Tuscaloosa Utilities Department
Tuskegee Housing Authority
Twin
Union
Union Grove
Union Springs Utility Board
Upper Bear Creek Water, Sewer & FPA
Valley Grande
Valley Head
Valley Head Housing Authority
Valley Housing Authority
Vernon
Vina
Vincent Housing Authority
Vredenburgh
Wadley
Waterloo
Webb
Wedowee
Wedowee Water, Sewer & Gas Board
West Blockton
West Jefferson
Westover
Wetumpka Water & Sewer
Wilcox County Gas
Winstonville
Wilton
Wilton Water and Gas
Winfield Housing Authority
Winfield Waterworks & Sewer
Winston County Industrial Development Authority
Woodland
Woodstock

Silver Awards
(Loss ratio of 5% to 20%)
Albertville
Albertville Utilities
Alexander City
Anniston
Anniston Express
Anniston Housing Authority
Arab
Athens Utilities
Auburn Water Board
Bear Creek
Berry
Bessemer Electric and Water
Birmingham District Housing Authority
Blountsville
Boaz
Boaz Gas Board
Bridgeport Utility Board
Brighton
Butler
Camden
Carrollton
Centre Waterworks & Sewer
Chickasaw Utilities
Clanton
Clay
Colon
Columbiana
Creola
Crossville
Cuba
Cullman
Cullman Utilities
Dadeville
Daleville
Daphne
Decatur
Douglas
East Brewton
Eclectic
Eufaula Housing Authority
Eufaula Water Works
Falkville
Fayette
Fort Deposit Water Works & Sewer Board
Fultondale
Gardendale
Geneva
Gilbert Water & Sewer Board
Guntersville Electric Board
Guntersville Housing Authority
Haleyville Water & Sewer Board
Hamilton
Harpersville
Henagar
Hodges
Hollywood
Huntsville Housing Authority
Irondale
Jasper Waterworks and Sewer
Kinsey
Lawrence-Choctaw Counties Gas Board
Leeds Water & Sewer
Lexington
Lincoln
Lineville
Louisville
Louver Housing Authority
Marshall County Gas District
Montgomery Transit
Mooresville
Mosses
Boaz
Mount Vernon
Muscle Shoals
Northport Housing Authority
Odenville
Opelika
Pelham
Phenix City Housing Authority
Priceville
Ragland
Rainsville
Red Bay
Reform
Rockford
Rutledge
Satsuma Waterworks & Sewer Board
Section
Sheffield
Sheffield Housing Authority
Shorter
Southeast Alabama Regional Planning & Development Commission
Steele
Steele Waterworks Board
Stevenson Housing Authority
Sulligent
Sylacauga Housing Authority
Sylacauga Utilities
Talladega
Tarrant Electric Department
Troy Housing Services
Tuscaloosa Housing Authority
Tuscumbia
Tuskegee
Tuskegee Utility Board
Union Springs
Uniontown
Valley
Walnut Grove
Warrior
Weaver
West Etowah Co. Water Authority
Wetumpka
Winfield

Bronze Awards
(Loss ratio of 20% to 40%)
Abbeville
Alabama League of Municipalities
Alabaster Water Board
Allgood
Ashford
Athens
Bay Minette
Bay Minette Utilities
Bayou La Batre Water & Sewer
Bessemer
Birmingham Airport Authority
Brent
Brookwood
Chelsea
Childersburg
Clayton
Clint
Colbert County Animal
Coosa Dam
Cordova
Daphne Utilities
East Alabama Mental Health & Retardation
Elba
Enterprise
Fairfield
Fairhope
Fayette Water Works Board
Flomaton
Fort Deposit
Geraldine
Greensboro
Gurley
Haleyville
Homewood
Huntsville & Madison County Senior Center
Huntsville
Jasper
Kimberly
Lee-Russell Council of Local Governments
Lynn
Madison
Margaret
Milly
Mobile Metro Transit Management
Mobile Water & Sewer
Montgomery Water & Sewer
Mulga Waterworks & Utility Board
Muscle Shoals Electric Board
Notasulga
Oneonta
Opelika Waterworks Board
Oxford
Ozark
Ozark Utilities
Paint Rock
Pell City
Piedmont
Pinson
Pisgah
Pleasant Grove
Pollard
Prattville
Prichard
Rainbow City
Russellville
Russellville Waterworks & Sewer
Tuskegee Utility Board
Smiths Station
Somerville
Southeast Alabama Gas
Springville
Susan Moore
Town Creek
Toxey
Troy
Troy Housing Authority
Trussville
Union Grove Utilities
USS Alabama Battleship Commission
Vance
Vernon Water & Sewer Board
Vestavia Hills

Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation
         Municipal Workers Compensation Fund
2006 SkidCar Schedule

- Bessemer May 16 – 26
- Opelika June 6 – 16
- Oxford/Anniston July 11 – 21
- Decatur August 8 – 18
- Pell City September 12 – 22
- Scottsboro October 10 – 20
- Open October 31 – November 10
- Montgomery December 5 – 15

For more information, contact Donna Wagner at 334-262-2566.

Popular Safety Videos for the Spring Season

Right of Way Mowing Safety 5.032
Tractor Safety 5.039
Wheelbarrows 5.045
Responding to Bites and Stings 7.067
Responding to Allergic Reaction 7.068
Responding to Asthma 7.070
Inspecting Playgrounds for Hazards 7.083
Softball and Baseball Field Maintenance 7.084
Pool Safety 7.081
Outdoor Safety: Critters and Plants 7.029
Chlorine 14.006
Fleas, Ticks and Other Parasites 1.004
Lyme Disease: Danger in the Grass 7.026

New to the video library:
Jobsite Safety Inspection 2.008
Trucks, Vans and Other Delivery Vehicles 5.051
Elements of Back Care 7.073
Stretching Out at Work 7.074
It Only Takes a Second (Discussion Guide) 7.076
Tree Trimming Safety 7.079
Achieving a Drug Free Workplace: A Supervisor’s Responsibility 11.024
Achieving a Drug Free Workplace: An Employee’s Perspective 11.025
Wastewater Backup and Overflow: Response 14.015
Wastewater Backup and Overflow: Loss Control 14.016
Proactive Management and Sexual Harassment 16.004

To check-out a safety video, simply call, FAX, or e-mail your request to Rachel Wagner at: 334-262-2566; rachelw@alalm.org; or FAX at 334-263-0200.

334-262-2566.
For more information, call: