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Sunday October 23

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Setup <i>Exhibit Hall B</i>
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Registration
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Welcome: Michelle Jordan, AARC President & Kit Alexander, City of Orange Beach Opening Keynote <i>Kristin Scroggin, Generational Expert , genWHY Communications</i> <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Opening Reception <i>(Sponsored by Trio Community Meals & AARC)</i> <i>Grand Reef</i>
7:30 pm	Evening on your own

Monday October 24



7:30 am - 12:00 pm	Registration		
7:30 am - 8:45 am	Breakfast with Exhibitors <i>Sponsored by FirstNet, Built with AT&T & AARC</i> <i>Grand Reef</i>		
Breakout Sessions	Community & Economic Development (Salon ABC)	Organizational Effectiveness (Salon FGH)	"All Things Aging" (Salon E)
9:00 am - 10:15 am	A Tale of Two SRTs: Alabama Scenic River Trail & Singing River Trail <i>Andrew Szymanski, AL Scenic River Trail</i> <i>Matt Hayes, Will Hargrove & Sara Kovachich, Alta Planning + Design</i>	You have to survive to be able to thrive; meeting existence needs <i>Jillian Miles-Massey, HorizonPoint Consulting</i>	Train the Trainer LaKiesha Williams, ICN
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Refreshment Break w/Exhibitors <i>Sponsored by AARC</i> <i>Exhibit Hall - Grand Reef</i>		
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Innovation in Alabama Outdoor Recreation <i>Brian Rushing, UACED;</i> <i>Amy Rauworth, Lakeshore Foundation;</i> <i>Robby Cantrell, NARCOG</i>	How to create a thriving workplace & meeting relational needs <i>Jillian Miles-Massey, HorizonPoint Consulting</i>	All Things Aging LaKiesha Williams, ICN
12:00 pm	Afternoon on your own		



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Contact Information

David Stovall, P.E., President
Stovall@edgalabama.com

Wade Lowery, P.E., Vice President-Engineering
wade@edgalabama.com

Rodney Cunningham, P.L.S., Vice President-Survey
cunningham@edgalabama.com

David Dichiaro, P.E., Branch Manager-Foley, AL
dichiaro@edgalabama.com

Tuesday October 25

7:00 am - 3:30 pm	Registration		
7:30 am - 8:45 am	Breakfast with Vendors <i>Sponsored ATRC & The Cosby Company</i> <i>Exhibit Hall Grand Reef</i>		
Breakout Sessions	Community & Economic Development (Salon ABC)	Organizational Effectiveness (Salon FGH)	"All Things Aging" (Salon E)
9:00 am - 10:15 am	Economic Development Association 101: Project Development Process <i>Lee Mertins & Lucas Blankenship, EDA</i>	How to create a thriving workplace; meeting growth needs <i>Lorrie Coffey</i> HorizonPoint Consulting	Inclusive and Equitable Services to Non-Traditional Families in the Aging Field <i>Rochelle W. Johnson, ED.D.,</i> Office of Inclusion and Diversity, Auburn Univ.
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Refreshment Break w/Exhibitors <i>Sponsored by AARC</i> <i>Exhibit Hall - Grand Reef</i>		
10:30 am - 11:45 am	17 Springs: Path to Partnership <i>Richie Beyer, ECC;</i> <i>Bill Myers, Millbrook YMCA;</i> <i>Ann Harper, City of Millbrook</i>	Meeting Professional Development Needs <i>Lorrie Coffey</i> HorizonPoint Consulting	Crisis Management for Aging Staff- Addressing Mental Health, Financial & Medical Emergencies <i>Commissioner Jean Brown & Jean Stone, ADSS; Margaret Morton, SAFE;</i> <i>Carolyn Fortner, M4A</i>
12:15 pm - 1:30 pm	Luncheon Keynote Speaker: <i>Governor Kay Ivey, State of Alabama</i> Presentation of AARC Legislative Awards: <i>Recipients Sen. Bobby Singleton & Rep. Chris Sells</i> A4A Southeast Award: <i>Recipient Sen. Greg Reed</i> <i>Grand Ballroom</i> <i>Sponsored by CARPDC, EARPDC, LRCOG, NARCOG, RPCGB, SARPC, SEARPDC, TARCOG & WARC</i>		
Breakout Sessions	Community & Economic Development (Salon ABC)	Organizational Effectiveness (Salon FGH)	"All Things Aging" (Salon E)
1:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Montgomery White Water Project <i>Ellen McNair, Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce</i>	AARC Alabama Organizational Partnerships <i>Greg Cochran, ALM;</i> <i>Sonny Brasfield, AACC</i>	Overcoming Bias <i>Jillian Miles Massey & Lorrie Coffey,</i> HorizonPoint Consulting
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Network Break w/Refreshments <i>Sponsored by AARC</i>		
3:30 pm - 4:45 pm	Regional Collaboration & Partnership in Outdoor Recreation <i>Jared Carter, AMRV-RC&D</i> Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan <i>Brian Rushing, UACED</i>	Federal and State Partners <i>Joe McKinney, NADO</i>	Managing Isolation of Seniors <i>Jay Jones, Right at Home</i>
4:45 pm	Evening On Your Own		

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Legislative Breakfast Sponsored by TVA <i>Joe McKinney, NADO</i> Presentation of Public Service Award to Rep Mac McCutcheon; State Seal Award- Shabbir Olia <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Closing Remarks & Final Door Prize Drawings <i>Michelle G. Jordan, AARC President; Dennis Stripling, Vice President</i>
9:00 am	Conference Concludes

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TARCOG, Executive Director

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WARC, Executive Director

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LRCOG, Executive Director

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SCADC, Executive Director

Mr. Keith Jones
NACOLG, Executive Director

Mr. Charles Ball
RPCGB, Executive Director

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ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

1. Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments

P.O. Box 2603
Muscle Shoals, AL 35662-2603

Phone: (256) 389-0500
Fax: (256) 389-0599
Website: www.nacolg.org
Director: **Keith Jones**
kjones@nacolg.org

2. West Alabama Regional Commission

P.O. Box 509
Northport, AL 35476

Phone: (205) 333-2990
Fax: (205) 333-2713
Website: www.warc.info
Director: **Dennis Stripling**
dennis.stripling@westal.org

3. Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

2 Twentieth Street N., Suite 1200
Birmingham, AL 35203

Phone: (205) 251-8139
Fax: (205) 328-3304
Website: www.rpcgb.org
Director: **Charles Ball**
cball@rpcgb.org

4. East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

P.O. Box 2186
Anniston, AL 36202-2186

Phone: (256) 237-6741
Fax: (256) 237-6763
Website: www.earpdc.org
Director: **Lori Hodge Corley**
lori.corley@earpdc.org

5. South Central Alabama Development Commission

5900 Carmichael Place
Montgomery, AL 36117-2345

Phone: (334) 244-6903
Fax: (334) 271-2715
Website: www.scadc.net
Director: **Tyson Howard**
thoward@scadc.net

6. Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission

107 Broad Street
Camden, AL 36726-1701

Phone: (334) 682-4234
Fax: (334) 682-4205
Website: www.atrcregion6.org
Director: **John Clyde Riggs**
jcriggs50@gmail.com

7. Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

P.O. Box 1406
Dothan, AL 36302-1406

Phone: (334) 794-4093
Fax: (334) 794-3288
Website: www.searpdc.org
Director: **Scott Farmer**
sfarmer@searpdc.org

8. South Alabama Regional Planning Commission

P.O. Box 1665
Mobile, AL 36633-1665

Phone: (251) 433-6541
Fax: (251) 433-6009
Website: www.sarpdc.org
Director: **John F. (Rickey) Rhodes**
rrhodes@sarpdc.org

9. Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission

430 South Court Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

Phone: (334) 262-4300
Fax: (334) 262-6976
Website: www.carpdc.com
Director: **Greg Clark**
gclark@carpdc.com

10. Lee-Russell Council of Governments

2207 Gateway Drive
Opelika, AL 36801-6834

Phone: (334) 749-5264
Fax: (334) 749-6582
Website: www.lrcog.com
Director: **Lisa Sandt**
lsandt@lrcog.com

11. North-Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments

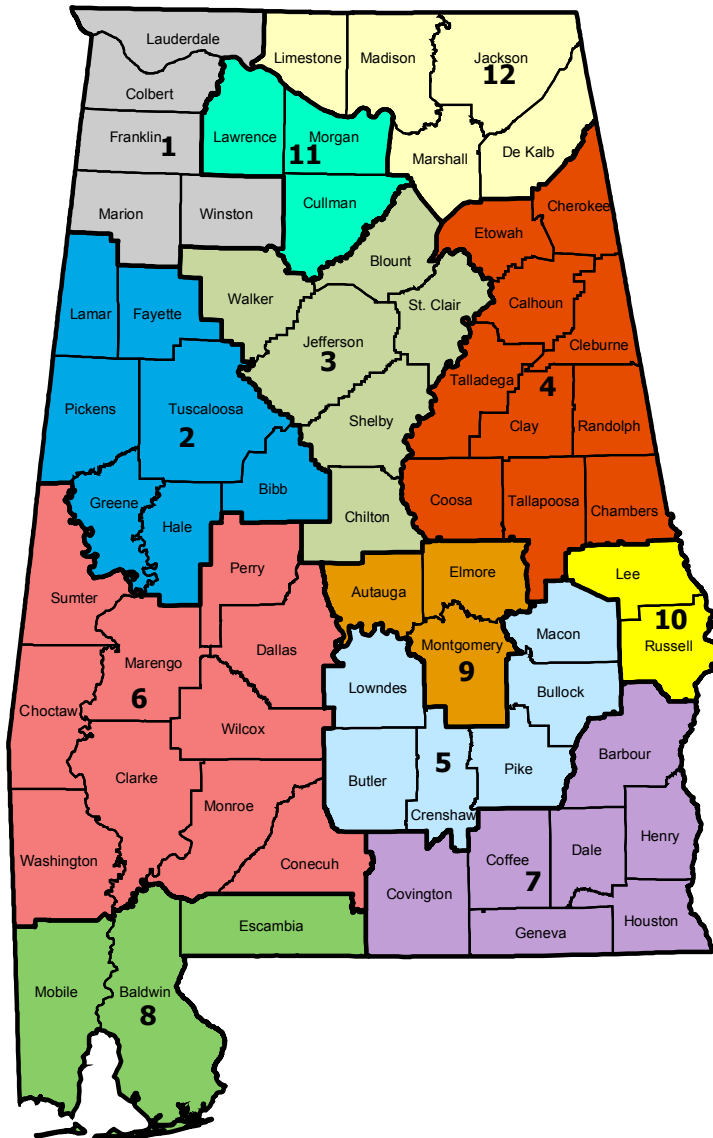
P. O. Box C
Decatur, AL 35602

Phone: (256) 355-4515
Fax: (256) 351-1380
Website: www.narcog.org
Director: **Robby Cantrell**
robb.cantrell@adss.alabama.gov

12. Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments

5075 Research Drive NW
Huntsville, AL 35805

Phone: (256) 830-0818
Fax: (256) 830-0843
Website: www.tarcog.us
Director: **Michelle Gilliam Jordan**
michelle.jordan@tarcog.us



5900 Carmichael Place
Montgomery, AL 36117-2345

Phone: (334) 277-2221
Fax: (334) 277-3899

Website: www.alarc.org

AARC Administrator: Sharon Darrington



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Conference Keynote Speakers 2022

SUNDAY KEYNOTE



Kristin Scroggin

Kristin Scroggin can't do math or bake a pie, but she knows her stuff when it comes to Generational Diversity and Communication! Kristin has a Master's degree in Communication Studies, a Bachelor's in Communication Arts, and has been a Communications Professor at the University of Alabama in Huntsville for 15 years. In 2017 she launched her company, genWHY Communications, and has been a Keynote Speaker at more than 100 conferences and 250+ organizations across the United States, ranging from Fortune 500 companies to tiny non-profits. Her research has been published in magazines, and she's been a guest on multiple podcasts. Kristin consults on attracting, developing, and retaining Rockstar Millennial and GenZ talent. Obsessed with travel, and desperate to see the world, she and her husband try to keep their four children alive while trying to keep their heads above water.

WEDNESDAY KEYNOTE



Joe C. McKinney

Joe McKinney serves as Executive Director of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). Headquartered in Washington, DC, NADO provides advocacy, education, research, and training for the nation's 540 regional planning and development organizations. Joe has thirty years of experience having served in city, county, regional and national association and government management since 1991. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Policy Analysis from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a candidate for a Master's Degree in public administration from UNC-Chapel Hill. Prior to his appointment as Executive Director of the National Association of Development Organization, Mr. McKinney served as Executive Director of Land-of-Sky Regional Council in Asheville, North Carolina from January 2003 until October 2012. Under his leadership, Land-of-Sky became recognized nationally for its innovation and program expansion in areas such as planning and economic development, workforce development, transportation and transit, aging services, volunteer services, and geographic information systems.

TUESDAY KEYNOTE



Governor Kay Ivey

Growing up in the small town of Camden in Wilcox County, Alabama, and working on her father's farm taught Kay Ivey to value hard work and living within one's means. Her parents instilled values of faith, family, and community. After graduating from Auburn University in 1967, Kay worked as a high school teacher and a bank officer. She served as Reading Clerk of the Alabama House of Representatives under Speaker Joseph C. McCorquodale and was Assistant Director of the Alabama Development Office, where she worked to spur job creation and economic development across the state.

In 2002, Kay became the first Republican elected State Treasurer since Reconstruction, and she was re-elected in 2006. As Treasurer, Kay was committed to making the office more open, transparent, and efficient. Kay was elected Lieutenant Governor in 2010, becoming the first Republican woman to hold the office in Alabama's history. She again made history on November 4, 2014, by becoming the first Republican Lieutenant Governor re-elected to the office. The Lieutenant Governor's primary Constitutional duty is to preside over legislative proceedings of the upper house as President of the Senate.

Governor Ivey has been honored to receive numerous awards for her service to the state of Alabama, including the 2015 ALFA Service to Agriculture Award; Newmax's 50 Most Influential Female Republicans in the country; the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) 2016 Public Service Award; and 2017 Citizen of the Year, by River Region Living Magazine. In September 2019, the Alabama-Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America distinguished Governor Ivey as a Golden Eagle for her 'scout like service' and being a trailblazer for women. Most recently, Governor Ivey was awarded the prestigious Army Aviation Order of St. Michael Knight Award. The American Village also presented the governor their highest honor, the Cornerstone of Liberty Award.

On April 10, 2017, Kay was sworn in as the 54th Governor of the state of Alabama in the Old Senate Chamber in the Alabama State Capitol by Acting Chief Justice Lyn Stuart. Following a successful nineteen months in office, the people of Alabama made history again in November 2018 by electing Governor Ivey to a full term. She is the first Lt. Governor of Alabama elected to a full term after taking over as governor due to a vacancy in the Governor's Office.

On January 14, 2019, Governor Ivey was officially sworn in for her full term by Associate Justice Will Sellers. Governor Ivey will continue to bring conservative leadership with effective results to make this generation more productive and the next generation more prosperous. She is a member of the First Baptist Church of Montgomery, the Montgomery Rotary Club, and the Board of Directors of the Montgomery YMCA. Governor Ivey is also the first Girls State alumna to be elected to an Alabama Constitutional Office.

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Conference Speakers 2022 *continued*

Kit Alexander

Kit is the Community Development Director for the City of Orange Beach. She has an Environmental & Water Resources Civil Engineering Degree from Vanderbilt University. & worked as a civil engineer in both the private and public sectors, including seven years with the City of Tampa in stormwater management and transportation design. Served as manager of the City of Tampa Commercial Development Review Division for eleven years, overseeing plan review and permitting of multi-family, subdivision and commercial development, ensuring compliance with Tampa stormwater management, zoning, transportation and tree & landscaping land development regulations. Kit moved to Orange Beach and went to work for a private engineering firm to oversee a Tri-City Eastern Shore Watershed Study funded by Congress. She was hired by Orange Beach in 2005 to fill a newly created City Engineer position. In 2008, she became the Community Development Director overseeing, Planning & Zoning, Building Permitting, Code Enforcement and Geographic Information Systems.

Richie Beyer

Richie Beyer has served in local government, working in four Alabama counties of varying sizes, since 1993. While most of his career was in the county engineering arena, today he is employed by the Elmore County Commission and is the first person to hold the county's position of Chief Operations Officer. In this role, Richie is responsible for the financial and administrative operation of the county's more than \$35 million annual budget and its 270 employees. He works daily with city, county and state officials and is active in state and national associations advocating for our cities and counties. In 2017, he testified before Congress to encourage the reduction in red-tape associated with federal grants and projects. He has also served as president of the Alabama and National associations of county engineers as well as President for the Association of County Commissions of Alabama's Liability Self-Insurance Fund. In 2012, Richie was named the Alabama County Engineer of the year followed by the National Rural County Engineer of the Year in 2014. He has served and still serves on various committees including the National Center for Pavement Preservation at Michigan State University, Highway Research Committee at Auburn University and the Alabama ATAP Center at Auburn University. He is a graduate of Enterprise High School and holds a BS in Civil Engineering from Florida State University. Richie is married to Kelli Anne Beyer and has three children: Gracie (22), Aubrey (20) and Colby (15). His free time is spent playing golf, coaching soccer as a Stanhope Elmore High School Varsity and JV coach, and participating in various roles at church.

Lucas Blankenship

Lucas Blankenship is the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Representative for both the State of Alabama and Tennessee. After spending the last sixteen years working within the realm of Economic Development and Public Policy, Blankenship truly understands what drives growth and prosperity. Over the past three years Blankenship has assisted EDA eligible applicants within his territory in acquiring ~ \$58 million in federal grant awards. The result of these investments is estimated to create roughly 5,800 new or retained jobs in addition to \$1.075 billion in private investment.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science 2003 and a Master of Public Administration 2005 from Auburn University. Blankenship is a graduate of the Alabama Leadership Initiative Class of 2018, University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government Public Management Program of 2017 and an Auburn University Economic & Community Development Institute Alumnus Class of 2013. He is married to his wife Kimberly, has one son named Eli and currently resides in Brentwood, Tennessee.

Sonny Brasfield

Sonny Brasfield serves as Executive Director of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama, which represents and provides services for Alabama's 67 county governments, its elected officials and more than 7,000 employees. The Association speaks with ONE Voice for county government in Alabama and is a consistent advocate for the programs and people who manage & deliver services to Alabama's citizens. Sonny has been employed with the Association since 1988; has been an active and influential part of Alabama government for more than three decades; & remains one of a select few association directors to be recognized in a listing of the 50 Most Powerful and Influential People in Alabama. He is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of ALA and holds a Master's Degree in communication management. Today, Sonny works with elected officials & employees at the local level, and with state & federal officials, to promote counties. He oversees the Association staff, its boards, committees & affiliates & is President of the Association's two very successful self-funded insurance programs. He is also a frequent speaker on advocacy, leadership, management, motivation, public relations, productive media relations & other topics. He is married to the former Kathy Perry, who retired as chief legal counsel for a state agency. They have two children – Perry Robert and Sydney Kay.

Robby Cantrell

Robby Cantrell is the Executive Director of the North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG); and has served in that role since February of 2020. Previously he served in the role of Director of Transportation from 2016-2020; and as Community

and Economic Development Specialist from 2012-2016. Robby has more than ten years of experience in various community and economic development projects; and has worked with a variety of grant funding sources and programs. Before moving to NARCOG, Robby spent three years as a GIS Analyst with the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (EARPDC). Robby is a graduate of Jacksonville State University and resides in the City of Hartselle, AL with his wife and three children. He serves on the City of Hartselle Parks and Recreation Board; was appointed the Alabama Trails Commission in 2022; and spent approximately 8 years of his career in golf course management.

Jared Carter

Jared Carter is the Programs Manager for AMRV RC&D, managing a variety of programs in the fields of agriculture, environmental education, and recreation. He serves as the Education Coordinator for the WaterWorks Center for Environmental Education, teaching more than a thousand students a year in environmental stewardship. He created and manages the Nature Ramp Network & Directory, an online resource and tool used to involve more youth in the outdoors. And he co-manages the Next Generation Agriculture program which exposes high school students to new technologies and careers associated with agriculture and natural resources. Over the last year, Jared has created & directed the development of the North Alabama Trails & Recreation program, dedicated to supporting the development of outdoor recreation opportunities throughout North Alabama. He is native to North Alabama with a home-life rooted in farming, an educational background in environmental science, and a passion for outdoor recreation.

Greg Cochran

Greg was named Executive Director of the Alabama League of Municipalities in 2020 after serving the League's membership since 1996 as Director of Advocacy & Public Affairs and then Deputy Director and Interim Executive Director. With more than 30 years of experience in governmental affairs, he has developed crucial relationships at every level of government and has served as the League's lead lobbyist for more than two decades. In 2006, Greg was named Executive Vice President of the Alabama Municipal Funding Corporation (AMFund), which was developed by the League to assist municipal members with refinancing existing debt and funding local projects and purchases through low-interest, cost-effective loans. He was elected AMFund President in 2008.

Greg attended the University of North Alabama and Troy State University majoring in Political Science. Greg was raised in a military family, growing up in Norfolk, VA, and Jacksonville, FL, where his father served in the U.S. Navy. He is married to Kelly Barclay Cochran and has two grown sons, William and Sanders.

Lorrie Coffey

Lorrie Coffey is a Talent Management Consultant with experience in strategic human resources planning and strengthening of human resources infrastructure. She has experience working with organizations to implement HR best practices, compliant HR policies, and advanced HR technologies. She has a passion for helping organizations strengthen their talent management strategy and become employers of choice.

Lorrie believes that the heart of any organization is its people. She strives to help organizations foster strong working relationships that meet the needs of employees while continuing to advance the goals of the organization. Lorrie's role with Horizon Point includes conducting full-scale HR audits, classification and compensation strategy analysis and design, HR process design and implementation, recruiting, and interim onsite HR support. In addition, Lorrie has experience in payroll and benefits administration. Lorrie's extensive research skills ensures that each project is completed with the utmost diligence. A Virginia native, Lorrie moved to Huntsville, Alabama, in 2015 with her three sons, Ethan, Wyatt, and Dylan. Lorrie graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, with a bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice. She is currently pursuing her Master's of Jurisprudence in Labor and Employment Law at Tulane University Law School. She is a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and a Society of Human Resources Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP).

Carolyn Fortner

Carolyn Fortner has been the Executive Director of Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging or M4A since 2006. Prior to becoming the Executive Director, she served as the Legal Services Provider, the State Health Insurance Coordinator, a certified Community Ombudsman, and the Information and Referral Coordinator for M4A. Carolyn has a law degree from the University of Alabama and a master's degree in English from the University of Montevallo. She spent the early part of her career in Asia and Southeast Asia working for the US Fulbright Commission and also practicing law. In 2002, she returned home to Alabama where, in addition to working in senior services, she also worked as a medical editor and adjunct professor of English. She and husband, Dale Price, live in Chilton County.

Appointed by Governor Kay Ivey, Carolyn currently serves on the Board of the Statewide Independent Living Council. She is a current member and past officer of the Elder Law Section of the state bar and current Board member of the Southeastern Association Area Agencies on Aging and the Alabama Association of Area Agencies on Aging. Carolyn has presented at both state and national conferences on aging and was recently named one of Alabama's "top 50 over 50," an award which recognizes individuals 50 and older for their successes and/or lifetime achievement in business, personal lives and civic engagement.

Conference Speakers 2022 *continued*

Rochelle Williams Johnson, Ed.D.

Rochelle Williams Johnson serves as the Director, Diversity Education and Engagement in the Office of Inclusion and Diversity at Auburn University. She partners with campus and community stakeholders to deliver DEI trainings, professional development, and equitable and inclusive programming. For over 15 years Rochelle has been supportive of the beliefs and values necessary to provide a quality, innovative, and transformative learning environment for the promotion of life-long learning and the accomplishment of personal and professional goals.

Rochelle has secured and managed over 3 million dollars in U.S. Department of Education federal funding to provide educational and cultural enrichment to underserved, first-generation and low-income students. She was recognized for outstanding leadership and dedication to TRIO Programs in 2016 and is a graduate of the Alabama Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel Emerging Leader Institute. She has been appointed to serve on committees focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Title IX Presentation, and Student Affairs Assessment.

Rochelle holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from William Carey College, Masters in the Art of Teaching in Social Sciences, and a Master of Science in Continuing Education in Counseling from the University of West Alabama. Her Doctorate in Education in Higher Educational Leadership was awarded by the University of South Alabama.

Jay Jones

Jay Jones joined the staff of Right at Home in 2022. With almost 40 years of healthcare experience including 20 years of inpatient and outpatient acute and post-acute care including physical rehabilitation, he has been active in administration & new business development for numerous national organizations including HealthSouth, Hospital Corporation of America, Tenet Health and others. He was CEO/President of The Parallax Group, a management services company & was executive director of the Alabama Physical Therapy Association. He has written for numerous professional journals and is a national speaker. A graduate of the University of Arkansas, he is active in the Episcopal Church and Cursillo in Alabama and is former Mentor at The University of the South School of Theology, Sewanee, Tennessee. He is married to Kathryn Jones, owner of KK Jones Flower Lab and is a successful artist producing watercolor canvasses, cards and floral arrangements.

Will Hargrove

Will is a licensed Landscape Architect and Project Manager for Alta's Huntsville office. He has over 10 years of experience in planning and design for municipalities of all sizes including trails and greenways, parks, streetscape revitalization, and redevelopment. Will has a passion for solving complex problems through strategic landscape architecture, urban design, and planning, and has helped local communities across the southeast achieve active transportation and recreation goals.

Ann Harper

Ann Harper has been the City of Millbrook's Economic Development Director since 2018. Prior to that, Ann worked with the Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF) as its Development Officer where her duties included growing the organization's Annual Fund. Before accepting a position with AWF, Ann served as the City of Millbrook's first economic development coordinator. In 1999, she began working with the City to establish a formal economic development program that would set the stage and process for the growth and diversification found in the local economy today. Early in her career, Ann worked for the Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission in Montgomery where she believes that the grant writing and administration skill set learned there has proven invaluable in her other jobs. Ann holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration from Auburn University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Auburn University at Montgomery. She is a member of the Economic Development Association of Alabama and International Council of Shopping Centers. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Elmore County Economic Development Authority (ECEDA), the Millbrook Area Chamber of Commerce (ex-officio) and Carastar Health.

Matt Hayes

Matt is a Vice President at Alta Planning + Design and oversees Alta's East Coast region. Matt brings 22 years of experience leading multimodal transportation and greenway planning efforts across the Southeast. Matt has worked with dozens of communities to set a vision and move towards the implementation of sustainable modes of transportation.

Sara Kovachich

Sara is a planner and designer who actively strives to create context-sensitive plans and vibrant places. Her experience includes both private and public sector projects, including park, university campus, commercial, and residential site planning. Prior to joining Alta, Sara was a natural surface trail planner for the International Mountain Bicycling Association and brings experience planning high-quality experiences for a wide range of trail user groups. Sara's landscape architecture background allows her to bring a holistic approach to trail planning, grounded in an understanding of implementation needs.

Jillian Miles Massey

Jillian is a Talent Management Consultant with a background in higher education and in industry. As an educator, she designed, taught, and facilitated university courses and career development programs in the fields of management, human resources, entrepreneurship, and organizational development. She also has experience with recruitment, selection, training, and development in a corporate setting, in particular with multinational firms. She values community involvement and serves as an active volunteer leader and member of professional and civic organizations, including the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), National Career Development Association (NCDA), and The Junior League. She loves traveling and visiting new places and communities. She has climbed The Great Wall of China, the stairs of the Colosseum in Rome, and the summit of Diamond Head Mountain in Honolulu. Jillian is a graduate of Auburn University with a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources Management and a Master's in Business Administration. She is a SHRM Certified Professional (SHRM-CP), a Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF), and a Certified Career Services Provider (CCSP). Jillian lives in Madison, Alabama with her husband, Brian Massey, and their two dogs, Lucy and Indy.

Michael D. McCown, P.G.

Mike is a Professional Geologist and founding member/Principal at PPM Consultants, Inc., a 110-member environmental consulting firm with seven offices in the Southeast. Founded in 1994, the firm has been consistently listed as one of the 200 largest environmental by Engineering News Record magazine. PPM specializes in providing solutions to the environmental issues faced by PPM's governmental, industrial, and commercial clients. Based out of PPM's Birmingham office, Mike assists cities and planning commissions with redeveloping brownfield sites, and tapping into federal grants to fund these efforts.

Ellen G. McNair, CECD

Mrs. McNair has worked in the field of economic development for over 30 years. She is currently Chief Economic Development Officer with the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce and was the senior project manager and a member of the negotiating team that brought Hyundai Motors Corporation to Montgomery. She has recruited dozens of national and international projects to the State. She is designated a Certified Economic Developer (CECD) by the International Economic Development Council.

Mrs. McNair has worked for the Alabama Department of Commerce as Project Manager and as Director of Research. She is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma. While attending graduate school in the Department of Economics at Auburn University, she received a fellowship through the U.S. Department of Interior. Earlier, Mrs. McNair had worked in television news in Huntsville, Alabama. She is a graduate of Auburn University, and a native of Boston, Massachusetts. Mrs. McNair is a past president of the Economic Development Association of Alabama (EDAA), and is involved in the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). She is a recipient of the David R. Echols Distinguished Service Award for exemplary achievement in economic development, given by the Alabama Department of Commerce. Mrs. McNair was the first woman Project Manager at the Alabama Department of Commerce, the first woman CECD in Alabama, the first woman President of EDAA and the first woman to lead a major metro area's economic development effort in Alabama. She is married to Joe McNair and they have two children.

Lee Mertins

Lee Mertins is the Area Director at the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Region IV based in Washington, District of Columbia. Previously he served as an Administration Director at EDA and has worked at EDA for nearly 15 years. Prior to EDA he worked at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. Lee received a Bachelors' degree in Business Administration and Management from Huntingdon College in Montgomery, AL.

Margaret L. Morton

Margaret Morton has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement, Inc. SAFE Family Services Center since 1998. Under her leadership, SAFE has provided comprehensive services to strengthen and support families across Talladega County and the region. In 2020, SAFE was selected a True Inspiration Awardee by the Chick-fil-A Foundation, the first ever Alabama organization to be selected. In 2021, Mrs. Morton was selected as the CBS Nexstar, Alabama's Remarkable Woman of the Year. In 2022, Mrs. Morton was awarded the Inaugural Chief Justice Tom Parker and the US Trust Lifetime Achievement Award and was an inductee into the University of Alabama College of Education Hall of Fame. She is a graduate of Leadership Alabama and Leadership Sylacauga and serves on many committees, including the Human Capital Task Force; the Alabama Works! WIOA Board and the East Alabama Works Board of Directors. She was a charter member of the Alabama Office of School Readiness Advisory Council, the Blueprint for Alabama's Children and was a coalition partner for the East Alabama Planning and Development Commission's CLEAR Plan 2030 initiative. She currently serves as Chairman of the Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers Advisory Board and a recently appointed member of the Alabama Health Literacy Partnership and the Board of Directors of the David Mathews Center for Civic Life as well as a member of the Board of Directors for the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission. Mrs. Morton resides in Sylacauga, Alabama.

Conference Speakers 2022 *continued*

Bill Myers

Bill Myers grew up in participating in youth sports, aquatics, and camping programs at the YMCA in Vicksburg, Mississippi & can't remember a time that the YMCA was not a part of his life. After attending the University of Miss for undergraduate and graduate degrees, Bill has had the privilege of serving in the YMCA Movement for 20+ years at 4 YMCAs in 3 states. Bill has served as Executive Director of the Grandview Family YMCA in Millbrook since August 2008. With the help of a tremendous staff and volunteer board, Bill has overseen multiple expansion & renovation projects on Grandview's campus, & the branch has grown from a \$650,000 budget in 2008 to nearly \$2 million today. Bill actively seeks out partnerships & collaborations that benefit YMCA & community. The partnership with the City of Millbrook for the YMCA to staff and operate the Millbrook Senior Center & the collaboration at the Fields at 17 Springs are just two examples. Bill says his favorite thing about the YMCA is watching members, program participants, and especially staff develop their God-given potential. When he's not spending time with his wife Brittany and two sons, Weston and Jay, Bill enjoys all types of outdoor pursuits, coaching soccer, & church activities. Bill serves his community as Past President of the Millbrook Men's Club, Past President of the Millbrook Area Chamber of Commerce and Prattville-Millbrook Sunrise Rotary Club.

Amy Rauworth

Amy Rauworth is the Chief of Development and Strategic Partnerships at Lakeshore Foundation. She also facilitates the work of the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD) located within the University of Alabama Birmingham/Lakeshore Foundation Research Collaborative. Ms. Rauworth has over 20 years of experience in public health practice including development and implementation at state, national and international efforts all with an emphasis on the delivery of inclusive programming with people with disability across the lifespan. She advocates for inclusive community design through active and universal transportation options that promote health equity. Outdoor recreation is a passion, and she enjoys nature as often as possible with her husband and two children. Ms. Rauworth is the Director of Policy and Public Affairs at Lakeshore Foundation. She also facilitates the work of the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD) located within the University of Alabama Birmingham/Lakeshore Foundation Research Collaborative. She advocates for inclusive community design through active and universal transportation options that promote health equity for people with disabilities. Ms. Rauworth leads the strategic partnership initiative, content development and training and directs the coordination of Commit to Inclusion, a global campaign to end the exclusion of disabled people. In addition, Ms. Rauworth has over 21 years of experience in public health practice including development and implementation at state, national and international efforts all with an emphasis on the delivery of inclusive programming for people with disability across the lifespan. Outdoor recreation is a passion, and she enjoys nature as often as possible with her husband and two children.

Brian Rushing

With a background in conservation science, business administration, real estate, partnership building, and fundraising, Brian focuses much of his work at UA's Center for Economic Development on facilitating outdoor recreation planning and development

initiatives with local governments, state and federal agencies, and private partners. He provides both project leadership and technical assistance to advance these initiatives. Through these efforts, Brian is helping Alabama communities take better advantage of the growing recreation and nature-based tourism markets while improving quality of life for their citizens. A native of Alabama, Brian holds a B.S. from the University of the South in Natural Resources, an M.S. from Louisiana State University in Environmental Planning and Management, and an M.B.A. from The University of Alabama.

Jean Stone

Ms. Stone is currently employed with the Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS) as the Assistant Commissioner for the ADSS Medicaid Waiver Programs. In this position, Ms. Stone is responsible for oversight of the home and community based waiver programs. Ms. Stone served as the Project Director for the implementation of Alabama's self-direction program called Personal Choices. She is currently serving as the Project Coordinator for ADSS with Alabama Medicaid's EVV implementation activities. Ms. Stone was recently appointed as a board member for the National EVV Association. Ms. Stone has worked with Medicaid and other state agencies on a variety of long term care initiatives. Ms. Stone's other state government experience includes a tenure of over 15 years with the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Ms. Stone received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Auburn University at Montgomery and has continued to receive additional training in management and administration. She earned her certification as a Managed Care Professional Healthcare Manager through the Academy for Healthcare Management.

Andrew Szymanski

Andrew Szymanski is the Executive Director of the Alabama Scenic River Trail and longtime recreational and competitive paddling enthusiast. Andrew moved to Montgomery, Alabama in 2010 as part of the AmeriCorps VISTA program after graduating from the University of Georgia and then became the Executive Director of the Montgomery Dragon Boat Festival which raised funds for two local nonprofit organizations through a large-scale annual event in downtown from 2010-2019. His passion for Dragon Boating led him to the competitive side of the sport where he became a board member of the United States Dragon Boat Federation and eventually was selected as their President and a Manager of their Team USA Program from 2017-2021. Andrew grew up in Topsfield, Massachusetts but has made Alabama his home. In 2022 Andrew opened up Hilltop Public House, a coffee shop and bar in Montgomery with close friend Will O'Connor.

Lakiesha Williams

Lakiesha Williams, MSW, LICSW, PIP, MPA is a professional social worker licensed in Alabama at the clinical level (Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker-LICSW) with a certification for Private Independent Practice (PIP). She obtained her Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and her Master of Public Administration (MPA) from The University of Alabama at Birmingham, and she earned her Master of Social Work (MSW) from The University of Alabama. She offers 13 years of professional experience in the areas of child welfare, adoptions, long-term care planning for seniors and their families, bereavement and grief counseling, veterans' services, and medical social work.

2022 Legislative Award Winners

Senator Bobby Singleton

Senator Bobby Singleton is serving his third term in the Senate. He was elected on January 25, 2005, to fill the unexpired term of former Senator Charles Steele. He served in the Alabama House of Representatives for one term. He has served as the past Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus. He currently serves as Senate Minority Leader. Senator Singleton sits on the following committees: Agriculture and Conservation, Banking and Insurance, Confirmations, Finance & Taxation Education, Finance & Taxation General Fund, Judiciary, and Tourism. He is also a member on the Alcohol Beverage Study Commission, Alabama Public Pension Committee, Housing Finance Authority Legislative Oversight Committee, Joint Legislative Prison Committee, the License Plates Legislative Oversight Committee, Joint Legislative Task Force for Budget Reform and Permanent Legislative Committee on Reapportionment. He was recently appointed by the governor to serve on the Gaming Commission, and he serves on the Alabama Healthy Food Financing Initiative Study Commission, a new commission. He serves on the Community Action Board of West Alabama. Senator Singleton holds a B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice from Alabama State University and a Juris Doctor from Miles College; he is a consultant. His hobbies include hunting, traveling, and fishing. Senator Singleton is a member of Greenleaf Missionary Baptist Church, Greensboro Alabama and he is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Representative Chris Sells

Representative Chris Sells was born in Mobile, Alabama where he graduated from Vigor High School in 1982. He moved to Greenville in 1990, where he met his wife (Joyce) and where they raised their daughter (Hannah).

He has owned several small businesses and worked as a firefighter and EMT. In January 2014 he decided he would run for a seat in the House of Representatives. Rep. Sells' favorite hobby is fishing and his goal is to reel in a 100 pound catfish.

He also serves as the Rules Committee, General Fund Committee, Health Committee, and Vice Chairman of the State Government Committee. Rep. Sells supports the Seniors programs and the many services Regional Planning Commissions provides.

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CONTACT:

Robbin L. Gregory, PLA, ASLA
Director of Planning & Landscape Architecture
(205) 942-2486 Telephone
rgregory@gonzalez-strength.com

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AARC 2022 Training Conference Evaluation

The Alabama Association of Regional Councils thanks you for attending the AARC 2022 Annual Training Conference. We hope your experience was educational as well as enjoyable. We want to provide the very best training conference possible each year. To assist us we ask that you complete this evaluation form and place it in the collection box at the Conference Registration desk or email it to AARC at sdarrington@alarc.org.

1. Was this your first time attending an AARC Training Conference? (check one)

☐ Yes ☐ No (If "No" how many have you attended)

2. How would you rate the following? (check one in each category)

Conference Quality

☐ Excellent

☐ Good

☐ Average

☐ Poor

Conference Presenters

☐ Excellent

☐ Good

☐ Average

☐ Poor

Facility

☐ Excellent

☐ Good

☐ Average

☐ Poor

3. Were opportunities provided to network with others in your profession?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. List least three things you learned at the conference.

- _____
- _____
- _____

5. Which breakout session(s) did you find most informative?

- _____
- _____
- _____

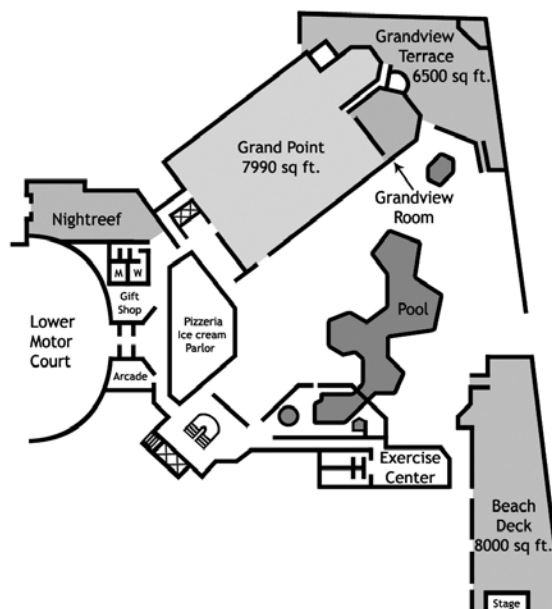
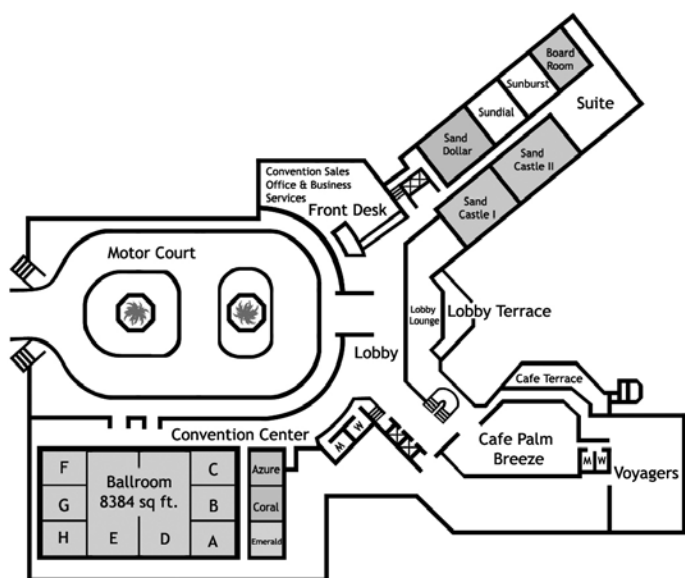
6. What are your recommendations to increase attendance at AARC's Training Conference?

7. Based on your experience this year, do you plan to attend the AARC Training Conference next year?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Additional Comments _____

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN YOUR EVALUATION AT THE REGISTRATION DESK. THANK YOU!



Things to Do During Your Free Time

- Check out eateries at the hotel from fine dining to pizza & ice cream!
- Plan a visit to the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo.
- Check out numerous Seafood Restaurants in the area!
- Shop at the Foley Outlet Malls!
- Take a 2-hour guided Segway tour on the Hugh S. Branyon Backcountry Trail in Gulf State Park.
- Take a Stroll on Alabama's white sandy beaches!
- Tee-off at Cotton Creek, Craft Farms!
- Take a drive along Alabama's Coastal Connection, a Nationally Designated Scenic Byway!
- Go bird-watching along the Coastal Birding Trail to get outside and enjoy nature at its best!

* For more information about any the above items contact Sharon Darrington at (334) 277-2221 or sdarrington@alarc.org

Conference Notes

- Dress is casual attire.
- Your name tag must be worn at all events.
- Don't forget to complete the conference evaluation form at the conclusion of the conference.
- Questions? See Sharon Darrington, AARC Administrator.
- Keep your blue ticket with you for door prize drawings.
- Two red drink tickets for the opening reception are included in your registration fee.

