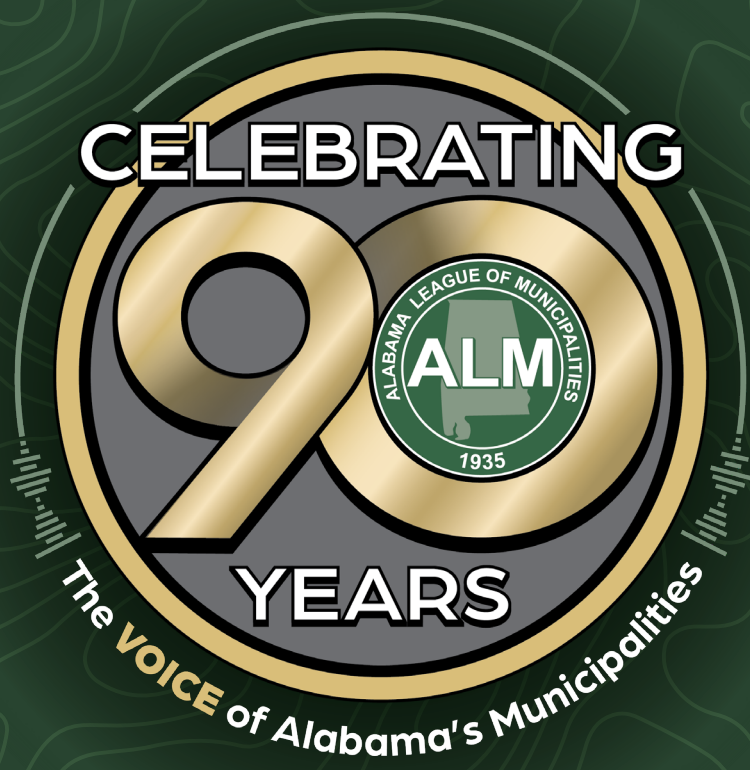




2025 Alabama League of Municipalities

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

October 30, 2025 ⌕ **2:00 p.m.**

Renaissance Hotel & Spa, Montgomery, AL

2025 GRADUATION CEREMONIES

AGENDA

Noon —————◇

Check-In for Graduates and Awards Ceremony

2 - 4 p.m. —————◇

Welcome - Alabama Ballroom AB

Greg Cochran, Executive Director, ALM

Invocation:

Dr. John Ed Mathison, Leadership Ministries

Introduction of Commencement Speaker:

Mayor Sherry Sullivan, Fairhope, ALM President

Commencement Address:

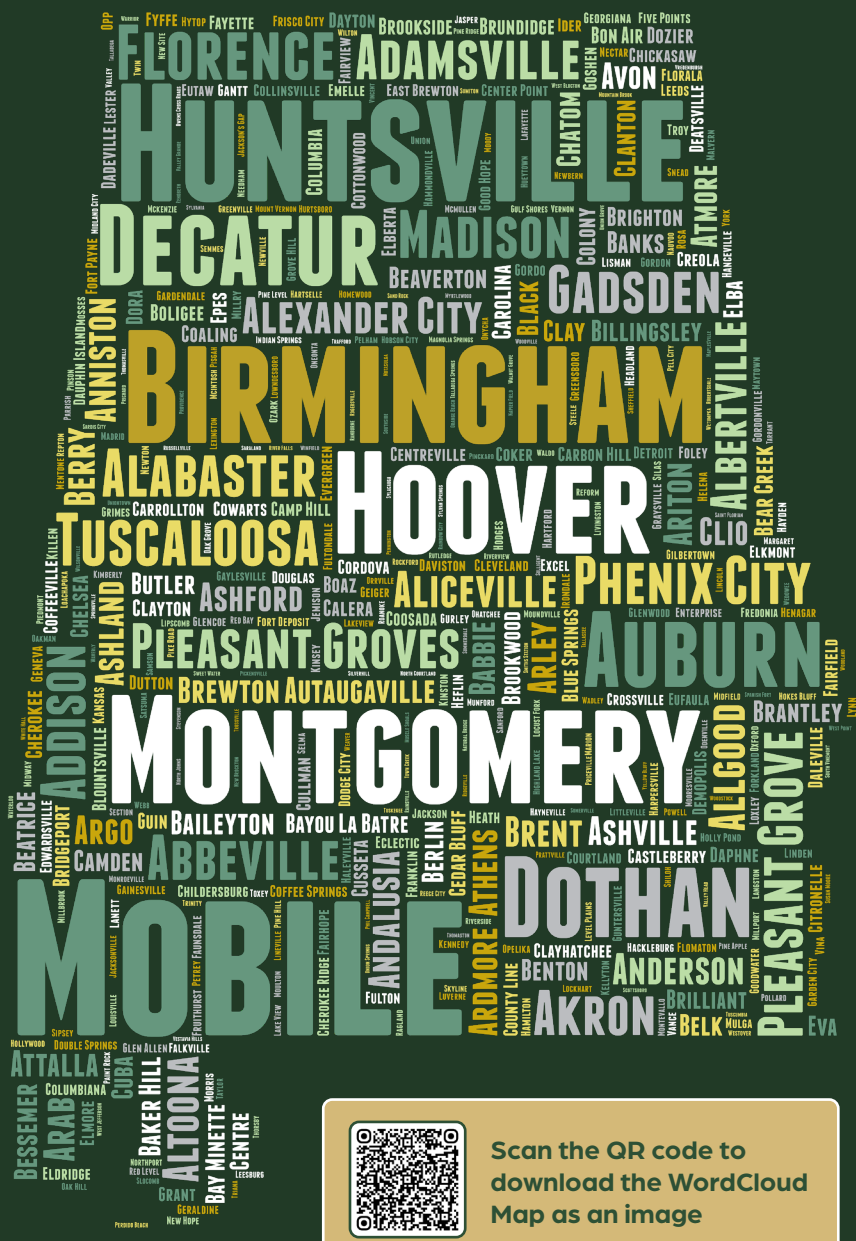
Dr. Cathy Randall, Chairman of the Board,

Pettus Randall Holdings, LLC

Graduation and Awards Categories:

- Certified Municipal Official Program
- Certified Municipal Achievement Awards
- Alabama Communities of Excellence Designations
- ACE Star Awards
- Healthy Alabama Communities Award
- Economic Development Academy
 - 2026 Economic Development Academy Announcement
- DesignAlabama Mayors Design Summit Graduates

Since 1935, the Alabama League of Municipalities has proudly supported Alabama’s cities and towns. Through decades of changes, the mission has stayed the same: strengthen municipal government through advocacy, training and the advancement of effective local leadership.



Scan the QR code to
download the WordCloud
Map as an image

PROGRAMS RECOGNIZED DURING THE GRADUATION AND AWARD CEREMONIES:



The Certified Municipal Official Program consists of a series of continuing education programs, specialized webinars and online training designed for elected municipal officials – mayors and councilmembers – who are receiving formal training in municipal government.

Officials completing 40 credit hours of training are awarded the professional designation of **Certified Municipal Official**. The **Advanced Certified Municipal Official** designation is earned by completing an additional 40 credit hours of training. Officials who have received both their CMO and Advanced CMO designations can obtain the **Certified Municipal Official Emeritus** designation. The CMO Emeritus is awarded to those who complete a minimum of 120 credit hours of continuing CMO education plus 15 points. CMO Emeritus levels II - IV were created for members who receive over 200 credit hours of training, and 20 points. This expanded recognition of achievement celebrates the lifelong dedication to learning displayed by Alabama's municipal officials.

The first session of the Certified Municipal Official Program was held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Mobile on September 22, 1994, with additional locations in Birmingham, Montgomery and Huntsville. Nearly 200 officials enrolled in the program during the first sessions. As of this year, more than 5,300 municipal officials have enrolled and attended municipal government training provided by ALM.

On May 3, 2024, Gov. Kay Ivey signed the Alabama Municipal Official Training Act ("Training Act") into law. The Alabama League of Municipalities (ALM) drafted the legislation, in partnership with sponsors Sen. Jabo Waggoner and Rep. Jim Hill, to support communities by requiring Alabama municipal officials to complete mandatory training. This training will better position local officials to understand core subjects necessary to maintain their operations, abide by state laws and help their communities prosper.



Certified Municipal Official Program



Honoring the
30th Graduating Class of Certified Municipal Officials;
27th Graduating Class of Advanced Certified Municipal Officials;
11th Graduating Class of Certified Municipal Emeriti;
and the
2nd Presentation of Certified Municipal Emeriti, Tiers II-IV

2025 Certified Municipal Officials

- Councilmember Timothy Aja, Opelika
- Councilmember Kenneth L. Doss, Hartselle
- Councilmember Dana Henry, Athens
- Councilmember Judy Hurst, Carbon Hill
- Mayor Jeff Monroe, Five Points

2025 Advanced CMOs

- Councilmember Tommy R. Blackmon, Grimes
- Councilmember Mary W. Brabner, Spanish Fort
- Councilmember Cindy Cuellar, Irondale
- Councilmember Kenneth L. Doss, Hartselle
- Councilmember Gregory Eldridge, Level Plains
- Councilmember Eugene Faulk, Union Springs
- Councilmember Shelia Franklin, Florala
- Mayor Chris Hare, Glencoe
- Councilmember Danny Hollis, Sulligent
- Councilmember Mark Howell, Creola
- Councilmember Tommy Ivey, Childersburg
- Councilmember Marcus Jackson, Prattville
- Mayor Curtis Johnson, Colony
- Councilmember Ellis Key, Moody
- Councilmember Donna Porter Manasco, Jemison
- Councilmember Wendy Merriweather, Midfield
- Councilmember Louis Jerome Murry, Union Springs
- Councilmember Joe Nix, Andalusia
- Councilmember Harold Parmer, Creola
- Councilmember Jonathan Ray, Margaret
- Councilmember Kathy P. Smyth, Luverne
- Mayor Sherry Sullivan, Fairhope
- Councilmember Christie Thomas, Selma
- Councilmember Matthew Tortorice, Margaret
- Councilmember Kay S. Turner, Calera
- Councilmember Randy Vice, Rainbow City
- Councilmember Anthony Wright, Hueytown

2025 CMO Emeriti

- Mayor Henry Barnes Sr., Bayou La Batre
- Councilmember Dollie M. Blue, Midway
- Councilmember Annette F. Gaither, Ashland
- Councilmember Mike Henderson, Oxford
- Councilmember Velma Johnson, Midfield
- Councilmember Jannie Thomas, Selma
- Councilmember Sylvia Wallace-Patton, Florala
- Councilmember Bill Whisenhunt, Adamsville
- Mayor Bobbie D. White, Brent

2025 CMO Emeriti - Tier II

- Mayor Carole Barfield, Ashford
- Mayor Larry J. Fetner, Ashland
- Mayor Randy Garrison, Hartselle
- Councilmember Dink J. Myers, Guntersville
- Councilmember Bobby L. Tapley, Alexander City



Tiered Emeritus Level Recognitions:

CMO Emeritus	120 credit hours and 15 points
CMO Emeritus II	200+ credit hours and 20 points
CMO Emeritus III	300+ credit hours and 30 points
CMO Emeritus IV	400+ credit hours and 40 points

The **Certified Municipal Achievement Award** recognizes and commends cities and towns where the mayor and all councilmembers have earned the professional designation of Certified Municipal Official. It represents the mayor and all councilmembers have completed a minimum of 40 credit hours of formal training based on Certified Municipal Official Program credit hour records during the previous program year.



Certified Municipal Achievement Award



*Recognizing the
8th Class of Certified Municipal Achievement
Award recipients*

2025 CMA Awards



- Boligee
- Brewton
- Center Point
- Foley
- Glencoe
- Hokes Bluff
- Midfield
- Opp
- Priceville
- Rainbow City
- Robertsdale
- Saraland
- Shorter
- Southside
- York



An Alabama League of Municipalities Program

Alabama Communities of Excellence



Alabama Communities of Excellence, better known as ACE, is an organization with the mission of helping Alabama's smaller communities (8,000 – 12,000) to plan, grow and prosper. In 2021, the Alabama Communities of Excellence program joined the Alabama League of Municipalities after successfully supporting and strengthening 43 communities for close to 20 years. ACE provides technical assistance to smaller communities through a comprehensive, three-phase approach. Phase I focuses on Assessment; Phase II focuses on Leadership Development and Strategic Planning; and Phase III focuses on Comprehensive Planning and Implementation of the Strategic Plan developed during Phase II.

- Chelsea
- Luverne

alabamacommunitiesofexcellence.org

ACE Star Awards



The ACE Star Awards celebrates individuals considered as the “shining stars” of the ACE program who have performed beyond the call of duty. ACE recognizes advisory board members, ambassadors, community participants and volunteers for their work assisting the organization and the communities they serve.

- Outstanding Mayor
Gayle Robbins - Florala
- Outstanding Volunteer
Charles Veneziano – Ozark
- Outstanding Local Coordinator
Floyd Rodgers Jr. - Fayette



Healthy Alabama Communities Award



The Healthy Alabama Communities (HAC) program was developed in 2024 in partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health, the Alabama Hospital Association and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama to support communities and community leaders in identifying and implementing policy, system and environmental changes to improve the health of all community members.

- Saraland

ALM's Economic Development Academy was launched in 2021 and is specifically designed to educate and engage municipal officials on the essential elements and phases of economic development while highlighting their vital role in economic initiatives and projects within their communities.

Developed in conjunction with the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) and supported by an advisory council of industry leaders, the EDA engages elected officials from select cities and towns with municipal peers and colleagues from their region to prepare their communities for growth. Using a collaborative municipal team approach, participants convene four times throughout the year to complete assignments and develop strategies to enhance economic development in their communities. Ultimately, each municipality selected is required to implement a community program/project and to report on its progress. Academy graduates are recognized during the ALM's annual Municipal Leadership Institute each fall with a certification via ACCS and ALM.

While only municipal officials and municipal employees are eligible to receive CMO credit, business leaders and regional economic developers are welcome to participate in the program. All participants will receive a certificate from the Alabama Community College System upon completion.



Economic Development Academy



*Honoring the
4th Graduating Class of the Economic Development Academy*

- Fort Payne
- Glencoe
- Tuscumbia
- Wilton

*A special announcement for 2026 will be
made during this time.*

almonline.org/EconomicDevelopmentAcademy

DesignAlabama is a citizen-led not-for-profit operating in partnership with the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Its primary mission is to advocate for the collaboration of the design arts and their importance in creating and enhancing place in Alabama.

Since 1987, DesignAlabama has helped many communities address their design issues, resulting in increased economic development and enhancing quality of life. Through the initiatives of DesignAlabama, together with citizens, it helps make our local communities across the state desirable, profitable and more livable.

DesignAlabama programs create engagement between civic leaders, citizens and design professionals. DesignPlace and the Mayors Design Summit are annual events hosted by DesignAlabama. It also conducts special programs and events such as DesignVision, DesignDash and ConnectLivity.



**Design
Alabama**

Recognition of the 2025 Philip A. Morris

Mayors Design Summit Graduates



- Mayor Zach Bigley, Town of Pine Level
- Mayor Bubba Cagle, Town of Parrish
- Mayor Randy Garrison, City of Hartselle
- Mayor Jeremy Pate, City of Cordova
- Mayor Theoangelo Perkins, City of Harpersville

designalabama.org

CMO Team

For more information, reach out to one of the following League team members or scan the QR codes below.



Cindy Price
Corporate Relations
Manager
cprice@almonline.org



Mary J. Pollard
Director of Professional
and Community
Development
mpollard@almonline.org



Kerri Butler
Member Services
Associate
kbutler@almonline.org



Annabel Patton
Membership Clerk
apatton@almonline.org



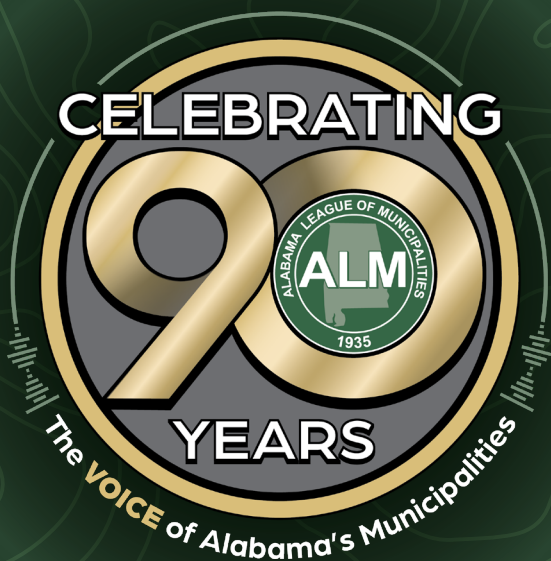
CMO FAQs



CMO Core Curriculum



Municipal Training Act Q&A



Find out more about the League at almonline.org.

