



State Personnel Newsletter

2016 State Employee of the Year

Volume 10.1

July 2016



Commissioner of Insurance Jim Ridling (left) with State Employee of the Year Charles Angell

Congratulations to the 2016 State Employee of the Year, Charles Angell! Mr. Angell is the Deputy Commissioner and Chief Casualty Actuary with the Department of Insurance. Mr. Angell joined the Department of Insurance in 2008 as a Casualty Actuary, but it did not take long for him to earn a promotion to Deputy Commissioner in September of 2009. In this position, he is responsible for the Rates and Reforms, Producer Licensing, Consumer Services, and Pre-Need Divisions as well as the Department's Strengthen Alabama Homes Program.

With a highly accomplished career spanning over five decades in both the insurance industry and government service, Mr. Angell is a nationally recognized insurance professional. According to Commissioner Ridling, Mr. Angell is frequently called on by insurance commissioners in other states for his expertise and wisdom. He has become a highly sought-out expert and public speaker on property and casualty insurance issues by state leaders and legislators, business groups, professional organizations/societies and citizen groups.

In June of 2015, Mr. Angell was appointed by Governor Bentley to become a member of the Coastal Insurance Working Group (CIWG), which focuses on public policy to address the cost of property insurance along Alabama's Gulf Coast. During the CIWG's work, Mr. Angell provided his professional expertise and led the group's discussions and served as a primary drafter of the CIWG's report to the Governor. The CIWG's effort resulted in sweeping legislation to reform coastal insurance through major reorganization and policy changes. Other changes spearheaded by Mr. Angell have the potential to save Alabama coastal residents millions of dollars in insurance premiums over the next several years. Mr. Angell's efforts were praised by both coastal legislators and the citizen group.

Mr. Angell also has been a strong and passionate advocate for coastal home fortification. With this passion, he was instrumental in the passage of State legislation in 2012 that established the Strengthen Alabama Homes (SAH) program. Part of Mr. Angell's responsibilities with the department is the supervision of the SAH program which allows the State to make grants to coastal area residents to fortify their homes against storm damage.

A huge thank you to Mr. Angell for serving the State of Alabama and its citizens!

Employee of the Year "Honorable Mentions" were awarded to:

- ☆ **Fred Harders** with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- ☆ **Tina Johnson** with the Alabama Community College System
- ☆ **Dallas Richey** with the Alabama Department of Transportation

Point of Interest:

- The State Personnel Board will meet on August 17, 2016

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PerksCard Update

PerksCard just keeps getting better – now you can buy what you want and pay for it over 12 months, interest free! PayCheck Direct® is a program where you can buy what you want now and pay for it interest free over 12 months in automatic payments deducted from your bank account.

Go to www.perkscard.com and login for all of these savings, plus see the new PerksCard retailers! Haven't activated your free membership yet? Go to the website, click "Register Now!" at the top of the page and enter the Group Code "alabama101," then start saving!**



Get your creative cooking juices flowing this summer with PayCheck Direct®:

- ☆ Add color with Rachel Ray's orange mixing bowls, blue teakettle, or green dishes.
- ☆ Get a gadget. That KitchenAid mixer you've had your eye on also comes in some pretty fun colors.
- ☆ Splurge for a new refrigerator, electric range, dishwasher or microwave -- the Kenmore brand has stood for trusted performance for generations.

**In order to use PayCheck Direct, an employee must first sign up for PerksCard. PerksCard submits employee verification information to PayCheck Direct twice per month. This may cause a slight delay for an employee wishing to register for PayCheck Direct.

To learn more about PayCheck Direct purchase limits, payments, return policy and other important details about the program, go to your shopping website and click on Customer Service or see your installment agreement generated during the checkout process. PayCheck Direct® is operated by Bluestem Enterprises, Inc.

Six Flags Summer Discount!

Discount Tickets Available this Summer!

Save up to \$25 off the front-gate price.

To purchase tickets, please visit:

www.sixflags.com/partnerlogin

Username: [alpersonnelog](#) Password: [SixFlags10](#)



EMPLOYEES' SUGGESTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Don't forget to submit your cost-saving ideas to the Employees' Suggestion Incentive Board for a **CASH AWARD** up to **\$5,000!** You can find the rules and form on www.personnel.alabama.gov under the "Employee Resources" tab, then "Online Options." Your completed submission form must include approval from your agency head in order for your suggestion to be awarded.



Empower Retirement Update

NEW!

Alabamaretire.com and the Voice Response System are now available for your contribution changes!

State employees in the Alabama Deferred Compensation Plan may now change contribution amounts online and via the voice response system! The processes are simple and convenient:

1. Log into your account at www.alabamaretire.com
 - Click on *Transactions*
 - Choose *Change Paycheck Contribution*

OR

2. Call the Voice Response System toll free at (877) 313-2262, available M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. CST

You can even sign up for automatic annual contribution increases to help give your retirement a raise!

By logging online or calling the Voice Response System you can also:

- ◆ Obtain your account balance, investment option allocations, and recent activity
- ◆ Transfer among funds
- ◆ Obtain daily unit/share values of your investment options

Also, don't forget that the Alabama Deferred Compensation Plan offers loans in times of need! You can find information about the loan request process online or by calling the local office at the number listed below.

Need help or have questions?

To speak to an Alabama Retirement Plan Counselor, call (334) 240-0057, M-F, 8:30 – 5:00 p.m. CST

Contribution changes can still be made via the **Paycheck Contribution Election Form**, which is available online at www.alabamaretire.com or by calling (334) 240-0057.

Whether online, in person or on the phone, we continue to make the Alabama Deferred Compensation Plan more accessible and interactive. Log on or call today to see how you can maximize your retirement benefits with the State of Alabama.

*Access to the voice response system and/or any website may be limited or unavailable during periods of peak demand, market volatility, systems upgrades/maintenance or other reasons.

Summer Recipe



SWEET TREAT FOR SUMMER!

Courtesy of:
Your Homebased Mom

[http://
www.yourhomebasedmom.co
m/chocolate-dipped-ice-cream
-tacos/](http://www.yourhomebasedmom.com/chocolate-dipped-ice-cream-tacos/)

CHOCOLATE DIPPED ICE CREAM TACOS

INGREDIENTS:

- ☆ Small Flour Tortillas
- ☆ Cinnamon
- ☆ Sugar
- ☆ Butter Spray
- ☆ Ice Cream
- ☆ 6 oz. Semi Sweet Chocolate Chips
- ☆ 1 1/2 Tbsp. Corn Syrup
- ☆ 6 Tbsp. Butter
- ☆ Sprinkles, crushed nuts, etc.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Spray one side of tortilla with butter spray and sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar.
2. Fold over with cinnamon and sugar on the inside and insert a small foil ball in the middle to retain the taco shape and keep the tortilla open.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes or until crisp.
4. Cool and then fill with ice cream.
5. Wrap in plastic and freeze until hard.
6. Melt chocolate. Add in butter and corn syrup. Stir until smooth.
7. Dip ice cream filled taco into chocolate.
8. Sprinkle with desired toppings.

****TAKE YOUR FAMILY OUT FOR A SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT! The Alabama Retired State Employees Association (ARSEA) is offering discounted movie tickets to active State employees. For discounted tickets, please call ARSEA at (334) 834-9116 or (800) 844-7732, or go to www.ARSEA.org****

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www.personnel.alabama.gov

Don't forget to check out discounts available through PerksCard.com!
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The Alabama Merit System law created the Personnel Department to be administered by a Personnel Director who answers to an independent board. The Board currently consists of five members who serve staggered six-year terms. Two members are appointed by the Governor, one by the Lieutenant Governor, one by the Speaker of the House, and one member is an elected classified State employee who is subject to all merit system rules and regulations.

By law, the Board is required to meet once each month. Its principal functions are to:

- * adopt and amend rules and regulations;
- * adopt and modify classification and pay plans;
- * hear the appeals of employees who have been dismissed;
- * represent public interest in the improvement of personnel administration in state service; and
- * advise and assist the Personnel Director.

The State Personnel Board is scheduled to meet on August 17, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room on the 3rd Floor of the Folsom Administrative Building in Montgomery. The meeting is open to the public.