

CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of LERA-ALABAMA
ISSUE 02 JUNE 2013

Celebrating **28**
Years!
LERA
ALABAMA CHAPTER



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IN THE NEWS...recent developments in the NLRB

NLRB Update
by Katherine Chahroui

This is a very challenging time for the National Labor Relations Board. Earlier this year, the U.S. District Court for the D.C. Circuit issued a decision in the *Noel Canning* case holding that President Obama's January 2012 recess appointments of two Board members were unlawful. The Third Circuit followed soon after with a similar decision. The NLRB has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to resolve this conflict, and the parties and other interested organizations are filing briefs. The Supreme Court has not yet indicated whether it will accept the cases for review.

If these recess appointments are ultimately found to be unlawful, several hundred Board decisions would potentially be invalidated. As happened in 2010 with *New Process Steel*, each of those decisions will have to be re-examined by a lawfully constituted Board. Meanwhile, the practical impact of this situation is that many of the parties who have been the subject of orders issued by this Board, emboldened by the Circuit Court decisions, are now refusing to comply with Board orders – refusing to reinstate employees and pay back wages, refusing to recognize collective bargaining representatives, refusing to bargain, refusing to process grievances. And Congress has been considering various bills which would limit or shut down the NLRB pending Supreme Court review of *Noel Canning*. Management, labor, and neutrals all agree that the quickest possible resolution of this conflict would be the best thing for all concerned.

At the same time, with the pending expiration of the current Board members' recess appointments, the composition of the NLRB hangs in the balance. Chairman Mark Pearce's term expires August 27, at which time the Board will lack a quorum until it is back up to three members. In mid-May, the President sent a slate of five NLRB nominees to the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee: Mark Gaston Pearce (D), Sharon Block (D), Richard F. Griffin, Jr. (D), Harry I. Johnson III (R), and Philip Andrew Miscimarra (R). To the surprise of many, each member of the slate received the approval of the HELP Committee. As a result, the five nominees will go forward for a full Senate confirmation vote. In addition, the President has nominated current Acting General Counsel Lafe Solomon to permanently fill the post of General Counsel for the NLRB. It is anticipated that the Senate may act on all of these nominations in July. Once again, management, labor, and neutrals largely agree that a fully-functioning NLRB would be the best way to ensure stability in labor relations. Keep your eye on the news - it should be an interesting summer for the NLRB.



Hello! I hope this newsletter finds you doing well!

We are having a highly successful year in the LERA-ALABAMA Chapter.

We are seeing an increase in our membership and a renewed interest across our existing members.

The National LERA Conference will be held the first week in June, and it is likely that the Alabama Chapter will again be recognized for its programming, communication, and innovations...stay tuned for a report on that conference in the next issue.

Please consider joining us for the Alabama-LERA State Conference in September. We will be hosting the conference in a new venue which promises some exciting changes like more meeting room and better acoustics. That will be a big bonus as we welcome our high quality speakers and panel members. Plus the connections that you make will be vital as you do your day to day work throughout the year. Also new is the timing. The schedule has been moved up to September 8-10, which will allow some nice beach time for family members if they decide to join you at the conference.

And continuing in our theme of innovations for the Chapter, we can now accept credit card payments for the luncheons and conferences.

Hope to see you in September!

Patrick
Patrick

Growing LERA-Alabama...

Growing our membership – it's our top priority in 2013! One way we plan to do this is by continuing our Chapter's history of providing top-caliber programming at meetings. Our members recently met for the Mobile luncheon on May 7.



ABOVE: Attendees at the May 7th luncheon enjoy a briefing by Mike Saxon, Mobile Division Vice President for Alabama Power. He spoke about the positive economic development activity in Mobile County and surrounding areas, highlighting Austal's growth in employment to 3,500 with a future goal of 4,000; the proposed sale of Thyssen Krupp Steel; Outokumpu's (previously TK Stainless) goal of a 30% share of the North American market, and an initiative underway to capitalize on the growth potential of the primary products market. He also provided an update on the recent Airbus groundbreaking and shared the timeline for when the first airplanes will be delivered.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

The ALABAMA-LERA Conference

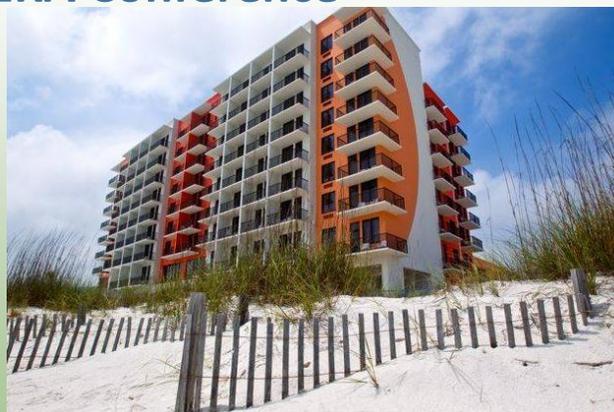
When:

September 8-10, 2013

Where:

Hampton Inn & Suites
Orange Beach, AL

Why: This low cost conference is packed with key updates and great speakers. For info email: wefreder@southernco.com





UPCOMING EVENTS

ALABAMA GOVERNOR'S LABOR CONFERENCE

June 2-6, 2013
Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, AL

HUNTSVILLE LERA/ALMRC LUNCHEON

DATE TO BE DETERMINED
11:30 AM
Redstone Arsenal Officer's Club, Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812

LERA-ALABAMA CHAPTER STATE CONFERENCE

September 8-10, 2013
Orange Beach Alabama

BIRMINGHAM DINNER MEETING

December 5, 2013
IBEW System Council U-19, 12181 Hwy 25 Calera AL, 35040

2014 MONTGOMERY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE DINNER

March 2014

2014 MOBILE LUNCHEON

May 2014

Alabama-LERA 2012-2013 Executive Board

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We'd love to hear from you!

Please e-mail your feedback/suggestions to: patrick.rasco@nasa.gov

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