



A Message From ALC President



Chris Potts

The 24th annual meeting of the ALC held October 11th-13th in Seaside, Oregon was a tremendous success. I would like to thank ALC President, Mark Turner and ALC Executive Director, Danny Druator for a great meeting.

With the passing of the gavel, I became your new President. I consider it an honor to serve as your president and invite you to contact me if I can help you in any way. As President, I look forward to continuing work on getting the bills passed on The Future Logging Careers Act, and the Right to Haul Act.

In the spring of 2019, your Board will be going to DC for our Board Meeting and visits to the hill. We're looking forward to that meeting and the opportunity to speak with our Congressmen/women about these two bills as well as other logging issues.

Safety and Trucking issues are impacting all of us. On Thursday, October 11, 2018, we had a Team Safe Trucking Meeting with an impressive agenda put forth by Jimmy Locklear with Forestry Mutual Insurance Company.

Obtaining qualified drivers is one of the most pressing problems loggers have today. There are only a few insurance companies remaining that will insure log trucks with some requiring a minimum of 3 yrs. experience driving a log truck. With this policy in place, inexperienced drivers will not be able to get the experience they need to be insured. This will eventually cause us to be unable to obtain drivers to haul our wood to the mill which will then become a mill problem as well. I know of one logging company that has hired someone to teach driver training and has an agreement with an insurance company to allow an inexperienced driver to be insured after a six-month training period. This might be a partial solution to the problem but an expensive one.

Along with obtaining drivers, hiring and retaining trained equipment operators is also an issue. Alabama is addressing the issue of trained equipment operators with the help of the Alabama Forestry Association and the Alabama Loggers Council. They have started a five-week training program for skidder drivers. Two groups have already graduated this training with plans to continue this training around the state using a mobile classroom.

As we move into our 25th year, the American Loggers Council will be conducting a 5-year strategic planning meeting in Washington, DC on June 21-23, 2019, at the office of Capitol Hill Consultants, the consulting firm that the ALC has retained to assist us with our efforts in Washington. We will be determining goals of what the ALC would like to accomplish within the next 5 years. If you would like to share some of your thoughts and ideas, please contact me or other board members prior to those dates.

I hope you will go ahead and mark your calendars for our 25th annual meeting next year in Orange Beach, Alabama at Perdido Beach Resort on September 26th – 28th, 2019. Plans are already underway for this to be an excellent meeting enjoyed by all. Be certain and check our web site at www.amloggers.com for information about this meeting and other logger events that will be taking place around the country.

Chris Potts is the owner of Potts Logging based out of LaFayette, Alabama. The American Loggers Council is an 501(c)(6) not for profit trade association representing professional timber harvesters throughout the United States. For more information please contact the American Loggers Council at 409-625-0206, or americanlogger@aol.com, or visit our website at www.amloggers.com