

## Upcoming Events

Virtual Dementia

**DATE:** December 7

**LOCATION:** Decatur, AL

Board Meeting

**DATE:** December 13

**LOCATION:** Decatur, AL

EDAA Winter Conference

**DATE:** January 29-31

**LOCATION:** Montgomery, AL

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# Successful Annual Holiday Drive

NARCOG has recently concluded its Annual Holiday Drive, a heartfelt initiative aimed at benefiting low-income SSI clients and SSI clients with disabilities of any age in Lawrence and Cullman County. The focus of this drive was the collection of blankets to distribute to approximately 275 clients.

The community's response surpassed expectations, with over 300 blankets collected during the drive. This impressive total illustrates the generosity and compassion inherent in the community members who contributed to this meaningful cause.

NARCOG expresses its sincere gratitude to every individual and organization that played a role in ensuring the success of this blanket drive. Heartfelt thanks are extended to the community members who generously donated blankets, the businesses that lent their support to the initiative, and the dedicated volunteers who invested their time and effort in

coordinating and facilitating the collection process.

Special recognition is extended to Eagles Counseling, Cullman High School, Family Security Credit Union, and Decatur High School for graciously allowing NARCOG to be part of their Holiday Project and aiding in the collection of several blankets. Decatur High School organized a canned food drive in addition to collecting blankets, and the Mental Health Center of North Central Alabama contributed three baskets filled with hygiene materials for clients in need.

The impact of this drive on the recipients, the clients in Lawrence and Cullman County, is immeasurable. As the colder months approach, these collected blankets will undoubtedly provide physical comfort and symbolize the community's care and concern for its members in times of need.

Thank you Home Instead for caring for our Morgan County clients!



**Robby Cantrell | Executive Director**

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# Thank You To Our Veterans

In the spirit of gratitude and appreciation during this past Veterans Day, we wanted to take a moment to extend our deepest thanks to the remarkable veterans within our organization.

Their unwavering dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to service have shaped our organization and left an indelible mark on

the fabric of our community.

As we take this moment to say thank you, we also want to reaffirm our commitment to supporting our veterans in every facet of their professional and personal lives. Their contributions continue to shape our organization, and we are privileged to work alongside you.

Our Veterans include Jerry Barnette (Driver), Jimmy George (Driver), Justin Graves (Director of Aging), Renae Reynolds (Alabama Cares Coordinator), and Howard Williams (Driver).



**Jerry Barnette**  
United States Army  
6 years of service



**Jimmy George**  
United States Air Force  
10 years of service



**Justin Graves**  
United States Army  
4 years of service



**Renae Reynolds**  
United States Air Force  
5 years of service



**Howard Williams**  
United States Marine Corps  
2.5 years of service

## Job Postings

**Transportation Planner**  
Full Time

**Dispatcher/Scheduler**  
Full Time

**Driver**  
Part Time

**Medicaid Waiver Division Manager**  
Full Time

View Full Description at  
<https://www.narcog.org/who-we-are/career-opportunities>

# NARCOG Showcases Careers

The Tools of the Trade Career Fair recently took place at Wallace State Community College, benefiting 8th graders around North-Central Alabama. The fair featured an extensive array of over 75 careers, providing valuable insights to students as they consider their future paths.

This event aimed to equip 8th graders with essential knowledge about various career options, helping them make informed decisions about their academic and professional journeys when they graduate high school. The diverse range of careers presented at the

fair allowed students to explore and gain a deeper understanding of potential fields of interest.

In addition to the Tools of the Trade Career Fair, NARCOG participated in the Danville High School Career Fair, which was tailored to high school juniors and seniors. This fair served as a crucial platform for showcasing different career options and providing valuable information as students prepare to transition into college.

NARCOG appreciates any opportunity to connect with the upcoming workforce, recognizing the importance of supporting

and guiding students as they begin their educational and professional endeavors.

By engaging with students at various stages of their academic journey, NARCOG contributes to building a skilled and knowledgeable workforce, empowering the next generation to make informed choices and pursue fulfilling career paths.



# NAIDA Conference

NARCOG Planning staff including Joey Hester, Jacklyn Moore, and Erica Dillard attended the North Alabama Economic Development Symposium at the Toyota Field on November 7th, 2023 covering the (EV)olving Landscape.

Some speakers included Brooks Kracke with NAIDA, Mayor Paul Finley with the City of Madison, Jim Searcy – Executive Director for EDAA, Mike Oatridge -Director of Alabama Mobility & Power Center, Josh Krauss -Site manufacturing Engineering for First Solar, and others. The presentations

covered various topics such as electric vehicles, solar energy, etc.

Key Speaker Josh Krauss presented about First Soar and explained where manufacturing locations are including Ohio, Malaysia, Vietnam, and one right here in Trinity, AL whom the NARCOG planning department is administering two grants for \$2.5 Million for the 16" industrial sewer force main, paving of the entrance road to the Mallard Fox West Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), and the extension of the 20" water main from its current termination point

(near Jack Daniel Cooperage) south along Cooperage Way to the Norfolk Southern Railroad.



## November Anniversaries

**Denise Balentine**  
Receptionist  
1 year of service

**Latrice Smith**  
Case Manager  
2 years of service

**Sammie Perkins**  
Case Manager  
2 years of service

**Cathleen McCulloch**  
Executive Assistant  
7 years of service



## Recent and Upcoming Aging Events

Lawrence County hosted a Health Fair dedicated to the well-being of its residents on November 14. This event provided a valuable opportunity for individuals in the community to access a range of health services, screenings, and information. From blood pressure checks to informational booths on preventive care, the Health Fair aimed to promote a holistic approach to wellness.

On November 20, Alabama Cares Coordinator Renae Reynolds hosted a special event to mark National Caregivers Month—a heartfelt lunch to honor and appreciate caregivers in the area. This event provided a well-deserved break for caregivers and an opportunity to listen to services provided

by NARCOG. Chicken Salad Chick was catered to attending guests.

Reynolds with Alabama Cares will be hosting a Virtual Dementia at the NARCOG main office on Thursday, December 7. the tour "temporarily alters participants' physical and sensory abilities using sensory tools and instruction based on research conducted by P.K. Beville." This is open to NARCOG employees, family, friends, and partnering organizations. Entities interested in hosting a Virtual Dementia Tour should contact Reynolds at 256-355-4515, ext. 241.

Several NARCOG team members will be attending the Cullman Senior Christmas Party on December 15 at Stonebridge Farms.

Partnering organizations will be assisting Cullman Commission on Aging to serve food to their older adults and spread holiday cheer.

Individuals interested in attending NARCOG-hosted events and events NARCOG will be exhibiting at should keep an eye on the "Meetings and Events" tab on the NARCOG website or the organization's Facebook.



**VIRTUAL DEMENTIA TOUR®**  
YOUR WINDOW INTO THEIR WORLD

## Spreading Lots of Christmas Cheer

This holiday season, NARCOG has embraced the festive spirit by participating in four Tinsel Trails across Decatur, Moulton, Trinity, and Falkville. Each Tinsel Trail offers a unique display of creativity and community spirit, and NARCOG is thrilled to be part of this celebration that brings people together during the most beautiful time of the year.

Be on the lookout for our tree at these locations!

### Decatur, Alabama

- Founders Park
- 905 Canal Street NE

### Moulton, Alabama

- Lions Club
- 455 School Street

### Falkville, Alabama

- Jack McCaig Park
- Intersection of Fifth Avenue and West Second Street

### Trinity, Alabama

- Caboose Park
- Intersection of North Seneca

and Old Trinity Road

As we stroll along these enchanting Tinsel Trails, let us appreciate the shared moments of joy, the beauty of community collaboration, and the festive spirit that unites us all. NARCOG wishes everyone a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, happiness, and the magic of community togetherness.

