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| <b>Page: Entry Information</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Chapter</b><br>CAI Alabama Chapter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Chapter Size</b><br>Medium (261-510)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Category</b><br>Public Affairs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Program Name</b><br>First Responders Appreciation Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p><b>Each question is worth 20 points and will be scored using the following rubric:</b></p> <p><b>(1-5) Poor</b> Didn't effectively answer the question</p> <p><b>(6-1) Fair</b> Answered the question</p> <p><b>(11-15) Good</b> Answered the question with more detail</p> <p><b>(16-20) Excellent</b> Went above and beyond with proven results and visible data</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>Describe the program and why it fits the category. (20pts)</b></p> <p>The First Responders Appreciation Lunch is an annual event hosted by CAI Alabama to show our appreciation for the police, fire, rescue, and public works teams who work hard every day to keep our cities safe. Since 2021, the event has been organized by the CAI Alabama's Serve Team Committee, and it's become something we look forward to every year. It's an opportunity to recognize and thank local heroes while also raising awareness of the important work CAI Alabama does for community associations.</p> <p>This program is a perfect fit for the Public Affairs category because it not only celebrates the vital role first responders play in our communities but also helps raise awareness about CAI Alabama's mission to support and strengthen communities across the state.</p> <p>Program Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual Event: Each year, the First Responders Appreciation Lunch is hosted in a different city. In 2024, the event was held for around 100 responders of the City of Trussville at the city's civic center.</li><li>• Honoring First Responders: The main focus of this event is to thank the police officers, firefighters, rescue workers, and public works teams for everything they do to keep us safe. It's a simple way to show our gratitude to those who work tirelessly to protect and serve the community.</li><li>• Food and Fun: We're lucky to have great members who help make the event enjoyable:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>~ A business partner member's BBQ truck served up delicious hotdogs, hamburgers, and all the fixings.</li><li>~ A business partner member's Ice Cream Truck offered popsicles and ice cream bars, bringing a fun treat to the day.</li><li>~ CAI Alabama's Serve Team volunteers, made up of manager and business partner members, were there to set up, serve food, and make sure everything ran smoothly.</li><li>~ Door Prizes: A big highlight each year are the door prizes, donated by CAI business partners. The prizes range from \$100 Visa or store gift cards to fun items like YETI coolers and gadgets. In 2024, nearly \$4,000 in prizes were given away to first responders as a thank you for all they do. As the first responders had to come in waves to keep the city services operating during the event, we held door prize drawings at three different times during the event to make sure every first responder got a chance to win a prize.</li><li>~ Building the CAI Brand: While the First Responders Appreciation Lunch is all about honoring the hard work of first responders, it also always gives us a chance to raise awareness of what CAI Alabama does. By being involved in events like this, we not only show our appreciation for first responders but also help strengthen our connection with the communities we serve as well as the cities those communities are in.</li></ul></li></ul> |
| <p><b>How did this program meet the mission and vision of the chapter and CAI as a whole including fostering an inclusive environment that reflects and serves our diverse community? (20pts)</b></p> <p>Outreach is a core pillar of CAI and CAI Alabama, and the First Responders Appreciation Lunch aligns perfectly with our mission and vision. This event provides a great opportunity to raise public awareness of CAI, CAI Alabama, and the community association industry in a positive way. By partnering with local cities, we not only build stronger relationships with city leadership but also create a direct line of communication between homeowner leaders, managers, and city officials. This can be especially valuable when issues arise that go beyond the scope of an association but still involve the city.</p> <p>Additionally, the event brings together members from various categories, allowing them to collaborate toward a shared goal. This strengthens relationships within the chapter and fosters a greater sense of community among members.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

**What was the impact on the chapter and its members after completing the program? (Growth of membership, financially, public awareness, membership value, better chapter/member relationship, chapter operations, etc.) (20 pts)**

Public Awareness:

We raised awareness in many ways. Hosting the event for cities allows us to engage not only the police, fire, rescue, and public works teams but also the city leadership. This helps spread the word about CAI and our mission. Additionally, while many of the door prize donations came from chapter business partner members, we also reached out to other businesses in the region. This gave those businesses exposure to CAI, further expanding our network and raising awareness of what we do.

Relationship Building with Cities:

The event provides us with an excellent opportunity to reinforce relationships with cities across Alabama. One example is that a city holds a CAI membership and actively supports the chapter in holding Board Leader Certificate workshops at their library. Hosting a serve event like this reinforces our partnership with cities and commitment to supporting both the city and its community associations.

Better Chapter/Member Relationship:

The First Responders Appreciation Lunch brings homeowner leaders, community association managers and business partners together for a common cause. It's been incredible to see how our members come together to serve their communities with such passion and dedication, strengthening our bond and making our chapter feel more connected.

Increased Membership Value:

Through events like this, we demonstrate the real value of being a CAI member. We're not just talking about it - we're actively engaging with and supporting local heroes, building meaningful connections with cities, and providing value to our members. This, in turn, strengthens the overall membership experience.

**Provide quantifiable data supporting the rationale for success. Include why this data is significant. (20pts)**

Event Consistency:

The First Responders Appreciation Lunch was first held in 2021 and has been hosted annually since. Depending on the size of the city's police/fire/rescue and public works teams, we hosted between 85-150 first responders at each event. We hosted 100 first responders in 2024.

Volunteer Participation:

When we first held the First Responders Appreciation Lunch, we had less than 10 volunteers help the day of the event and it has grown to over 20 now. The increase in willingness to help serve at the event shows that members enjoy being part of a meaningful program like this.

Door Prizes:

Each year, we have raised between \$3,000 and \$5,000 in donations and door prizes and in 2024 we gave away 35 door prizes with a value of \$3,750. This consistent level of support highlights the ongoing commitment from our business partners and community members to make the event special for our first responders.

Funding:

The BBQ, the ice cream desserts and door prizes were provided by business partners, only leaving the chapter to pay for drinks, plates, napkins, condiments and toppings which were less than \$500 in 2024 making it a very affordable event.

**What are your plans to maintain the momentum of this program moving forward? (20 pts)**

CAI Alabama is committed to continuing the tradition of hosting an annual First Responders Appreciation Lunch. This year, we will be hosting the 5th Annual First Responders Lunch. Although the host city has not yet been selected, brainstorming is already underway, and we are excited to organize another meaningful event in 2025.

While past First Responders Appreciation events have been held in cities within the Birmingham region, our goal is to expand the event to other regions of the state in the future. This will allow us to reach more first responders, give back to communities across Alabama, and continue raising awareness about CAI and the valuable resources we provide.

Supporting documents including flyers, postcards, pictures, videos etc. can be uploaded below. While they aren't required for your submission we certainly encourage it.

**Would you like to upload additional documents?**

**fileUpload1**

Download File (<https://caiawards.secure-platform.com/file/20587/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWVpYUlkIjoyMDU4NywiYWxzYXN0b3R0aWduZWVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSIImInbm9k2XEXAI3JqJSPgfmM?Attachments%20for%20First%20Responders%20Appreciation%20Lunch.pdf>)

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