



THE BUSINESS ADVOCATE



BCA Elects 2012 Officers, Board; Outgoing Chairman Cautions Group to Stay on Its Toes

Closing out a year highlighted by the most successful pro-business legislative session in its history, members of the Business Council of Alabama looked ahead to the new year by electing 2012 officers and board members as they met in December for their third joint Annual Meeting with the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama.

Meeting in Birmingham, both groups heard remarks from National Journal congressional correspondent and former CNN and FOX News reporter Major Garrett. BCA elected Terry Kellogg, president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, as 2012 chairman, succeeding Will Brooke, managing partner, Harbert Management Corporation. Other officers elected were Carl Jamison, shareholder, JamisonMoneyFarmer PC, Tuscaloosa, first vice chairman; Fred McCallum, president, AT&T Alabama, Birmingham, second vice president; Charles Nailen, president/owner, BBG Specialty Foods, Inc., Dothan, treasurer; Philip Dotts, principal, Public FA, Inc., Huntsville, secretary; and Fournier J. “Boots” Gale III, senior vice president and



2011 BCA Chairman Will Brooke and BCA President and CEO William Canary chat with Major Garrett. Above: Garrett brings political insights to the BCA Annual Meeting.

general counsel, Regions Financial Corporation, Birmingham, legal counsel.

BCA President and CEO William Canary honored outgoing president Brooke for his service to the organization, which was key during a year in which so many pieces of pro-business legislation supported by BCA were approved and signed into law. “You brought this organization to the next level,” Canary said, in presenting Brooke with a commemorative book of photographs from his year as chairman.

“Where we are in this organization is because of you.”

Brooke credited the BCA staff for effecting the positive results of the past year, including the fact that the BCA is debt-free, there are pro-business majorities in both houses of the Legislature, and the executive and judicial branches of government are “aligned where we need them to be.” “For the first time we’re able to have a participatory and heard voice in formulating our state’s future,” Brooke said.

Yet he cautioned BCA members to be on their toes because no outcome can be taken for granted, and “we need to be able to respond in a productive and positive way. If we’ll do that, we can make this state a better place.”

During his remarks, Major Garrett said in his 22 years covering Congress, he’d never witnessed it more frustratingly dysfunctional, inept and inert than the past year. When it established a new mousetrap in the form of a “supercommittee” to address the country’s debt reduction problems, politicians were actually lying to themselves, he said. “Anyone who under-

Continued from page 59

stood how the committee was formed knew it wouldn't happen."

"The problem isn't the mousetrap," he said. "It's that we haven't reached a consensus on what to do about the bigger issues of entitlements, retirement, and appropriate levels of taxation and spending."

Of course, the issue will play out during the 2012 elections, Garrett said. He reminded the audience that one-term presidents all share one thing in common: They

had a primary challenge. President Obama does not and can focus all his energies on the general election.

The volatility of the Republican race for the nomination is "because most of the best candidates aren't in it," he said. He made no predictions about the outcome, but said that the European economic crisis could be a major factor in the election because of the serious impact it could have on American business. "David Axelrod does

not hold the future to President Obama's reelection. (German chancellor) Angela Merkel holds the future of President Obama's reelection," he said.

While the unemployment rate has dropped, prolonged unemployment is dramatically changing the content of the country's workforce, Garrett said. "People are out of work longer and it's harder to reenter the workforce" after an extended period.

BCA Adds 21 New Members to Board of Directors

The Business Council has elected several new members to its Board of Directors. They are: Perry Hand, Volkert, Inc., Mobile; Mark Nix, Infirmiry Health Systems, Mobile; Pamela Burnham, Saraland Area Chamber of Commerce, Saraland; Albert Garrett, Robertson Banking Company, Demopolis; Marty Parker, Boise Paper, Jackson; Ronald Yarbrough, American Apparel, Inc., Selma; J. Danny Cooper, Alabama Association of Realtors, Montgomery; Ed Crowell, VT Miltope Corporation, Hope Hull; Barry Whatley, Craftmaster Printers, Inc., Auburn; Jeff Coleman, Covan World-Wide Moving, Inc., Midland City; Ashley Eiland, Andalusia Area Chamber of Commerce, Andalusia; Ron Davis, ZF Lemforder Corp., Tuscaloosa; Keith Granger, Trinity Medical Center, Birmingham; Sid McAnnally, Energen Corporation, Birmingham; John Turner, Regions Financial Corporation, Birmingham; Robert Vaughn, SunBelt Golf Corporation, Birmingham; Phil Webb, Webb Concrete and Building Materials, Heflin; Morri Yancy, Lake Gunterville Chamber of Commerce, Gunterville; Joanne Randolph, Women's Business Center of North Alabama, Huntsville; Lisa

Williams, System Dynamics International, Huntsville; Bill Lyons, Lyons HR, Florence.

Returning to the BCA board are:

Mobile/Baldwin District:

Cathy Anderson-Giles, Owen Bailey, Joseph Busta, Carol Gordy, Winthrop Hallett, Sheila Hodges, Erik Johnsen, Robert "Bubba" Lee, Harris Morrisette, Joe Rella, Sandy Stimpson, Charlie Story, Donna Watts, J.M. "Margie" Wilcox, Cheryl Smiley Williams.

Selma/Southwest Alabama District: Denson Henry, Frances Turner.

Montgomery Area District: Bill Barranco, Fred Blackwell, Steve Cawood, Frank Filgo, Randall George, Jack Hawkins, Mark Hope, Horace Horn, Doug Mannion, Cameron Martindale, Caroline Novak, Russ Tyner, J. Cameron West, Jan Wood, Alan Worrell.

Auburn/East Alabama District: Paul Cocker, Ab Conner, Susan Foy, Eddy Kilman, Robert Powers, Lolly Steiner, John Russell Thomas.

Dothan/Southeast Alabama District: Bill Brunson, George Flowers, Charles Nailen, Steve Roy.

Tuscaloosa/Jasper District: Carl Jamison, Bryan Kindred, Greg Leikvold, Linda Lewis, Tim Parker, Markus Schaefer.



Birmingham Area District: Freda Bacon, Eason Balch, William Brooke, Terrance Brown, Robert Campbell, Karen Carter, Shane Clanton, William Dow, Garry Neil Drummond, Fournier Gale, Brian Hilson, Terry Kellogg, Debbie Long, Douglas Markham, Fred McCallum, Mary Sue McClurkin, Charles McCrary, Jeff Miller, Bill Morton, Ron Perkins, Greg Powell, James Proctor, Suzanne Respass, Van Richey, Walter Scheller, Stephen Still, Michael Thompson, Donta Wilson.

Anniston/Gadsden District: Dick Anderson, Gregory Brown, Patricia King, Tim McCartney, Ray Perez.

Huntsville Area District: Ronnie Boles, Jim Bolte, Philip Dotts, Ken Tucker, Rick Roden.

Decatur/Cullman District: Jim Fincher, Kirk Mancer, Donald Morgan, John Seymour.

Shoals/Northwest Alabama District: Martin Abroms, Steve Holt, David Muhlendorf.





Magic Moments recipient of BCA holiday gift



Pam Jones of Magic Moments accepts check from BCA Chairman Will Brooke

In keeping with its annual tradition, the BCA donated money previously spent to buy and mail Christmas cards to Magic Moments, a charitable organization that fulfills the nonmedical wishes of chronically ill children in Alabama. Executive Director Pam Jones accepted the gift, which she said would allow Magic Moments “to restore hope and dreams to those children in Alabama who are living with life-threatening and life-altering medical conditions. We are proud of our relationship with the BCA and we are so grateful for your support.” The group has granted wishes to more than 4,100 children in its 27-year history.



Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Alabama President and CEO Tom Cleckler and Development Director Kim Turner accept a check from BCA Chairman Will Brooke. BCA annually makes a donation to its outgoing chairman’s favorite charity. Brooke’s wife, Maggie, has on the Boys and Girls Club board of director for several years and he commended the group for its work in providing positive adult relationships and scholarships to young people who “would have probably fallen through the cracks.”



John Seymour, Rick Roden and Susan Foy visit before BCA-CCAA joint meeting; Mark Wnuk and Lynn Cox of the Montgomery Regional Airport and Jeremy Arthur, president of the Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce.



Board members taking BCA to “Next Level”



Harris Morrisette, China Doll Rice and Beans; Steve Still, Maynard, Cooper & Gale P.C.; Ron Perkins, Doozer Software; Greg Powell, fi-Plan Partners; Charles Nailen, BBG Specialty Foods/Taco Bell; Dick Anderson, Huron Valley Steel; Owen Bailey, USA Children's and Women's Hospital; Denson Henry, Henry Brick Company; Sandy Stimpson, Scotch & Gulf Lumber
Those not pictured: Doug Mannion, Rheem Water Heating; Bob Powers, Eufaula Agency Inc.

Several members of the BCA board of directors were recognized at the last meeting of 2011 for their efforts in bringing in new members to the organization through the “Next Level” program. These members were given specially engraved iPods for their hard work in recruiting member companies into membership.

BCA President and CEO William Canary noted that one of the recipients, Greg

Powell, likes to quote Peter Drucker, who has said, “There are two types of people in the business community: those who produce results and those who give you the reasons why they didn’t.”

“This is a program that produces results,” Canary said.

Charles Nailen, a former BCA chairman, was singled out for his special recruitment efforts and was given an

iPad in appreciation for his tangible support of the Next Level program. “He just wouldn’t quit,” Canary of Nailen’s efforts. “He deserves and has earned the iPad.”

Nailen downplayed his accolades, saying, “I don’t do things for recognition. I’m involved in BCA because I believe in BCA and what we stand for. It’s our agenda to make Alabama a better Alabama for all Alabamians.”



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The Business Advocate is published by the Business Council of Alabama, Alabama's foremost voice for business. The BCA is a non-partisan statewide business association representing the interests and concerns of three-quarters of a million working Alabamians through its member companies, and is Alabama's exclusive representative to the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Send all submissions to Lenore R. Vickrey, Business Council of Alabama, 2 N Jackson St., Montgomery, AL 36104. Call (334)240-8740 or lenorev@bcatoday.org. For information on becoming a member of BCA, contact Elaine Fincannon, 334-240-8749, or elaine@bcatoday.org

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