

ADVOCATE

A publication of the Business Council of Alabama

Honors Well Deserved

The Business Council of Alabama and the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama recognized small businesses during the BCA-CCA annual Partnership meeting Dec. 1 in Birmingham.

In addition, the BCA board of directors elected Mobile businessman Perry Hand as chairman of the business advocacy organization for 2018 and elected new officers for the year.

Awards went to three Small Business of the Year finalists and an Emerging Small Business of the Year.

“Small business is the backbone of our state’s economy,” BCA President and CEO William J. Canary said. “We all know that small businesses provide the most jobs and make the most economic impact. In short, small business is essential and vitally important.”

The winner in the 1-10 employee category was Red Sage Communications of Decatur, the winner in the 11-50

employee category was Island Air Conditioning and Heating of Orange Beach, and the winner in the 51-100 employee category was Chappy’s Deli headquartered in Montgomery. Alabama Sawyer in Birmingham was named the Emerging Small Business of the Year.

The Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce nominated Red Sage Communications and Caleb Goodwyn of Power South Energy Cooperative, a gold sponsor of the “Alabama Small Business Awards” program, announced the winner.

The Coastal Alabama Business Chamber nominated Island Air and Loren Taylor, director of program development for the Alabama Self-Insured Worker’s Compensation Fund, a gold star sponsor of the “Alabama Small Business Awards” program, announced the winner.

Chappy’s Deli was nominated by the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce and Wayne Hutchens of

COVER: Alabama Trucking Association President and CEO Frank Filgo received the Jo Bonner Spirit of Leadership Award during the Business Council of Alabama/ Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama combined annual meeting.

1: Chappy's Deli award ceremony from left: Moore Hallmark, executive director, Southeast Region, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Chamber of Commerce Association President and CEO Jeremy Arthur; Lisa McGinty, executive director, Montgomery Chamber of Commerce Business Resource Center; Chappy's Deli owners David Barranco and Jeff Barranco; 2017 CCAA Chairman Bill Sisson, president and CEO of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce; and, Jeff Coleman, 2017 chairman of the BCA and president and CEO of Coleman Worldwide Moving Inc. in Dothan.

2: Ginny Barnas, co-owner of Island Air Conditioning and Heating of Orange Beach.

3: Ellen Didier, president of Red Sage Communications in Decatur.

4: Alabama Sawyer award ceremony from left: Bill Sisson; Moore Hallmark; Jeremy Arthur; Alabama Sawyer co-founder Leigh Spencer; Jeff Coleman; and, BCA President and CEO William J. Canary.



AT&T Alabama, a gold sponsor of the “Alabama Small Business Awards” program, announced the winner.

Alabama Sawyer was nominated by the Birmingham Business Alliance and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, a gold sponsor of the “Alabama Small Business Awards Program,” announced the winner.

This year, 45 small businesses were named as finalists and all finalists were recognized and honored at The Partnership annual meeting.

The Partnership was created in 2003 to strengthen Alabama’s business community with vertical representation of local chamber members and BCA members. “This strategic partnership of strong organizations with strong volunteer leadership has served to bolster both our efforts,” Canary said.

Canary and former U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner, R-Mobile, presented Alabama Trucking Association President and CEO Frank Filgo with

the second annual Jo Bonner Spirit of Leadership Award that is named in honor of Bonner, a tireless advocate for the state of Alabama and who is unwaveringly committed to economic development, job creation, and an improved quality of life for all Alabamians.

Filgo has led the trucking association for more than two decades, has served at the national level, and has been a champion for sensible pro-business legislation and industry regulation.

“This really doesn’t belong to me,” Filgo said, “it belongs to the board of directors of the Alabama Trucking Association.”

Hand, chairman and CEO of Volkert Inc. and the BCA’s first-vice chairman, succeeds 2017 Chairman Jeff Coleman, president and CEO of Coleman Worldwide Moving in Dothan. Hand is a former state senator, secretary of state, and Alabama Highway Department director.

Hand takes office Jan. 1. Coleman becomes immediate-past chairman.

The BCA board, meeting at the Harbert Center, elected Mike Kemp, president and CEO of Kemp Management Solutions in Birmingham, as first-vice chairman, and BCA secretary Denson Henry, vice president of Henry Brick Co. in Selma, as second-vice chairman.

BCA treasurer Charles Nailen Jr.,

president/owner of BBG Special Foods Inc./Taco Bell in Dothan, was re-elected treasurer, Rey Almodovar, chief executive officer of Intuitive Research and Technology Corp. in Huntsville, was elected secretary, and Fournier J. “Boots” Gale, general counsel, Regions Financial Corp., was re-elected BCA general counsel.

The board approved the BCA’s State Legislative Agenda for 2018 and named chairs and directors of each of the 11 board districts.

“We’ll have an aggressive agenda for 2018, which will include promoting infrastructure development, BCA membership, candidate selection, and business support for education excellence to create an outstanding workforce for Alabama business,” Hand said.

Coleman presided over his last official BCA meeting as chairman and ceremoniously passed the BCA chairman’s gavel to Hand, who presented Coleman with a memento of appreciation for his service, a framed and engraved gavel used during his term as chairman.

“It’s been a very rewarding year,” Coleman said. “I thank each and every one of you.”

Coleman urged continued support for the BCA and the Alliance for Alabama’s Infrastructure’s push to modernize financial support for Alabama’s deteriorating roads and bridges. A trucker, Coleman said he knows

the importance of good roads for economic development, job creation, and continued access to markets.

“We’ve got problems with infrastructure,” said Coleman. “It’s a real issue.”

Coleman mentioned the BCA’s strong strategic partnerships.

The BCA partners with the Alabama Aerospace Industry Association, the Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association, the Alabama Self-Insured Workers Compensation Fund, the Alabama Technology Network, the Business Education Alliance of Alabama, the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

“We want good policies for business,” Coleman said. **TBADV**



THE BUSINESS ADVOCATE



Previous issues available at bcatoday.org.

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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 interest 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. For information on becoming a member of BCA, contact Elaine Fincannon, 334.240.8749, or elaine@bcatoday.org. For more information, visit bcatoday.org.

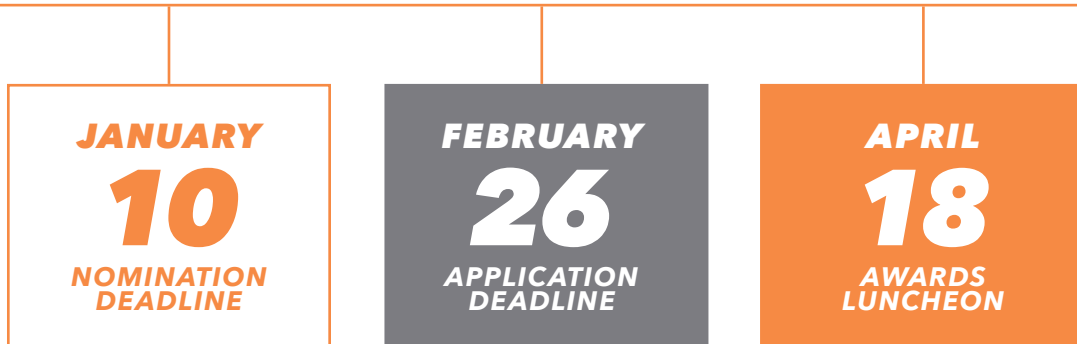


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2018 MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR AWARDS TIMELINE



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The Alabama Technology Network and the Business Council of Alabama are proud to present the 19th Annual Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Awards that honor the companies bringing uncompromising excellence to Alabama manufacturing.

NOMINATE A MANUFACTURER

You can help give credit where credit is due by nominating an Alabama manufacturer for the 2018 Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Awards. These annual awards recognize the state's top manufacturers for their accomplishments and for creating a better quality of life for Alabama's citizens. Please consider nominating a deserving Alabama manufacturer for its outstanding achievements in manufacturing this year. Self-nominations are strongly encouraged.

SELF-NOMINATE

Alabama Manufacturer of the Year Award winners exemplify the elite of manufacturing in innovation, commitment to excellence, dedication to employees, and community investment.

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