

A publication of the Business Council of Alabama

Leaders of Government and Business Share Ideas

The Business Council of Alabama's board of directors' February meeting in Montgomery included the installation of new members of the board followed by the BCA's annual Saluting Leaders of State Government reception that was attended by Governor Kay Ivey, legislators, statewide office holders, BCA members, and guests.

The BCA holds board meetings at various times of the

year to conduct business, update members on activities, and to install new board members.

BCA 2018 Chairman Perry Hand, chairman of Volkert Inc. in Mobile, presided over the Feb. 7 meeting at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center.

He told new board members that BCA efforts in 2018 will include preparing the way to modernize investment in

COVER: Business Council of Alabama Chairman Perry Hand, chairman of Volkert Inc. in Mobile, greets Alabama Governor Kay Ivey during the BCA's annual Saluting Leaders of State Government reception that followed the BCA's first board of directors' meeting of 2018 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center.

TOP LEFT: The Saluting Leaders of State Government reception was attended by 400 guests, including legislators, statewide office holders, and BCA members.

TOP MIDDLE: Business Council of Alabama President and CEO William J. Canary closed the BCA's annual winter board of directors' meeting with an update.

BOTTOM RIGHT: New board members pictured here, from left, are: Chip Smallwood, Alabama Market Executive, JP Morgan Chase Alabama, Birmingham; Larry Lewis, President, ProjectXYZ, Huntsville; Wayne Hutchens, President, AT&T Alabama, Birmingham; Greg King, President, IberiaBank; Nanda Patel, Principal, Summit Investments Group of Gadsden LLC, Gadsden; Doug Markham, SPOC Automation, CPA, Trussville; BCA Chairman Perry Hand, chairman Volkert Inc., Mobile; Josh Jones, Managing Partner, StrategyWise, Birmingham; Lance Bell, Trussell, Funderburg, Rea & Bell, PC, Pell City; Bobby Vaughan, Chairman, Alabama Self-Insured Worker's Comp. Fund, Birmingham.



Alabama's infrastructure that plays such a key role in economic development through safe, efficient, and updated roads and bridges

(Several days after the board meeting, President Donald Trump was to reveal his national infrastructure improvement plan, which Alabama will need to be ready to participate in.)

"We're trying to get this issue fixed for the state of Alabama," said Hand, who was state Highway Director in 1992 when the Legislature last approved new infrastructure funding. "What we are aiming for in 2019 is to pass the funding for infrastructure."

The installation ceremony recognized new board members Lance Bell, Trussell, Funderburg, Rea & Bell, PC, Pell City; Cynthia Crutchfield, AECOM, Huntsville; Dr. Russell Goode, The Orthopaedic Group PC, Mobile; Patrick Gorman, Gulf of Mexico & Mobile Bay Asset Manager, ExxonMobil, Theodore; Caitlin Holland, President, Shoals Chamber of Commerce, Florence; Wayne Hutchens, President, AT&T Alabama, Birmingham; Josh Jones, Managing Partner, StrategyWise, Birmingham;

Greg King, President, IberiaBank; Mike Lanier, President, Hoar Program Management, Birmingham; Larry Lewis, President, ProjectXYZ, Huntsville; Doug Markham, SPOC Automation, CPA, Trussville; Nanda Patel, Principal, Summit Investments Group of Gadsden LLC, Gadsden; Chip Smallwood, Alabama Market Executive, JP Morgan Chase Alabama, Birmingham; Danny Smith, Vice President State Government Affairs, UPS, Coppell, Texas; and, Bobby Vaughan, Chairman, Alabama Self-Insured Worker's Comp. Fund, Birmingham.

The board of directors voted unanimously to approve a resolution commending U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Tuscaloosa, for his exemplary service to the state of Alabama. He has been instrumental in the state's military, space, commerce, and overall business development efforts for three decades.

"Senator Shelby has always conducted himself on the national stage in a way that reflects the values, decency, and strength of the people of Alabama," Chairman Hand said.

Chairman Hand and Steve Still, the BCA's

Ambassador Program chairman, presented BCA board member John Watson, president of Torch Technologies in Huntsville, with the Still Ambassadorial Award for his exemplary work in the Ambassador Program. Still is chair of the government and regulatory affairs section of Maynard, Cooper & Gale P.C. in Birmingham.

Giving briefings were BCA First Vice Chairman and ProgressPAC Chairman Mike Kemp, president and CEO Kemp Management Solutions LLC in Birmingham; Joe Morton, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Business Education Alliance of Alabama, and Jeremy Arthur, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama (CCAA).

“ProgressPAC is critically important for what we’re trying to accomplish this year, which is elect a pro-business Legislature,” Kemp said. All 140 seats in the Legislature will be on the November ballot as will all statewide constitutional officers and numerous judicial positions.

Dr. Morton said the BEA and BCA’s goal of encouraging early childhood reading is paying off with a \$5 million appropriation in next year’s Education Trust Fund budget to restart the award-winning Alabama Reading Initiative. “The new focus is on reading

and reading well by the third grade,” Dr. Morton said.

“The concept of the BEA is to strengthen public education so we can build the best possible workforce to grow our economy,” said Dr. Morton, who is a former state school superintendent.

One of the strengths of the BCA is its historic relationship with chambers of commerce in Alabama that unites grass roots chambers with the statewide BCA through the 15-year-old Partnership.

“The Partnership remains strong,” Arthur said of the Partnership that represents 1 million working Alabamians.

BCA President and CEO William J. Canary gave the president’s report and recognized Clark Thomason from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Atlanta. The BCA’s federal partners are the U.S. Chamber and the National Association of Manufacturers, which are exclusively represented in Alabama by the BCA.

“The strength is in its membership, leadership, and its partnerships,” Canary said.

Following the meeting, the annual Saluting Leaders of State Government reception was held for more than 250 BCA members, legislators, state officials, and association members. **TBADV**



THE BUSINESS ADVOCATE



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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.

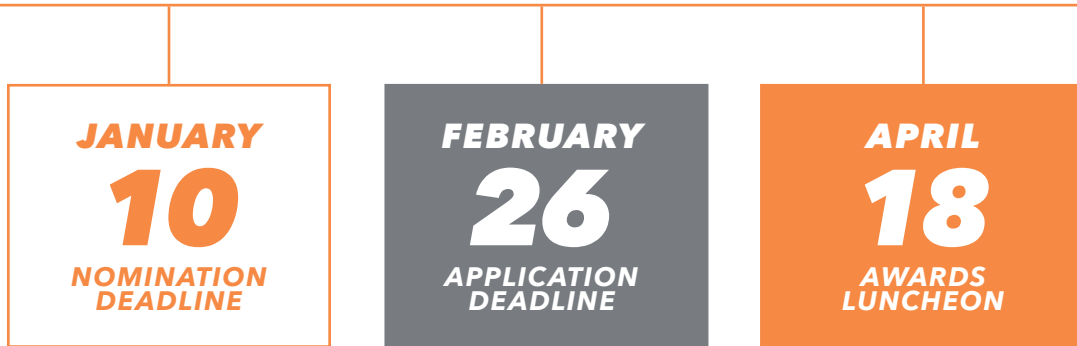


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