Members of the Business Council of Alabama closed out 2012 by electing 2013 officers and board members as they met in December for their fourth Annual Meeting with the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama.

Meeting in Birmingham, both groups heard remarks from Jay Timmons, president and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers. The BCA elected Carl Jamison, shareholder, JamisonMoneyFarmer PC, Tuscaloosa, as 2013 chairman, to succeed Terry Kellogg, president of BlueCross and BlueShield of Alabama. Other officers elected were Fred McCallum, president, AT&T Alabama, Birmingham, first vice chairman; Marty Abroms, president, Abroms & Associates PC, Florence, second vice chairman; Charles Nailen, president/owner, BBC Specialty Foods, Inc., Dothan, treasurer; Philip Dotts, principal, Public FA, Inc., Huntsville, secretary; and Fournier J. “Boots” Gale III, senior vice president and general counsel, Regions Financial Corporation, Birmingham, legal counsel.

The BCA is the exclusive affiliate in Alabama for the NAM, and in his remarks, Timmons commended the BCA leadership and staff for leading the charge for manufacturing in Alabama and said the NAM is “proud to partner with BCA to build a better Alabama.”

Speaking at the BCA/CCAA Annual Meeting, BCA President and CEO William J. Canary said, “We are blessed to have a working relationship with the NAM and the leadership of Jay Timmons at the helm of this vital national organization.” continued on page 3
New Members Elected to BCA Board of Directors

The Business Council of Alabama elected several new members to its Board of Directors for 2013. Those new members are: Stan Hammack, USA Health System; Lee Lawson, Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance; Thomas Lee, Vulcan, Inc.; Jeremy Arthur, Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama; Stacia Robinson, The BeneChoice Companies; Jim Page, The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama; Ronnie Acker, Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce; David Benck, Hibbett Sports Inc.; David Boyd, Balch & Bingham LLP; Howard Finch, Brock School of Business, Samford University; Beau Grenier, Bradly Arant Boult Cummings LLP; James Hansen, PNC Bank; Eric Pruitt, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC; Bob Riley, Bob Riley & Associates, LLC; Chip Cherry, Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce; and Pam Hudson, Crestwood Medical Center.

SELMA/SOUTHWEST ALABAMA DISTRICT
Pamela Burnham, Albert Garrett, Denson Henry, Marty Parker, Frances Turner and Ronald Yarbrough.

MONTGOMERY AREA DISTRICT

AUBURN/EAST ALABAMA DISTRICT
Ab Conner, Susan Foy, Eddy Kilman, Robert Powers, Lolly Steiner, John Russell Thomas and Barry Whatley.

DOTHAN/SOUTHEAST ALABAMA DISTRICT
Bill Brunson, Jeff Coleman, Ashley Eiland, George Flowers, Charles Nailer and Steve Roy.

TUSCALOOSA/JASPER DISTRICT
Ron Davis, Carl Jamison, Bryan Kindred, Linda Lewis, Tim Parker and Markus Schaefer.

BIRMINGHAM AREA DISTRICT

ANNISTON/GADSDEN DISTRICT
Dick Anderson, Gregory Brown, Patricia King, Tim McCartney, Ray Perez, Phil Webb and Morri Yancy.

HUNTSVILLE AREA DISTRICT
Ronnie Boles, Jim Bolte, Philip Dotts, Joanne Randolph, Rick Roden and Ken Tucker.

DECATUR/CULLMAN DISTRICT
Jim Fincher, Donald Morgan and John Seymour.

SHOALS/NORTHWEST ALABAMA DISTRICT
Martin Abrams, Steve Holt, Bill Lyons and David Muhlendorf.

RETURNING BCA BOARD MEMBERS ARE:

MOBILE/BALDWIN DISTRICT
Joseph Busta, Carol Gordy, Winthrop Hallett, Perry Hand, Sheila Hodges, Erik Johnsen, Harris Morissette, Mark Nix, Sandy Stimpson, Charlie Story, Donna Watts and Cheryl Smiley Williams.

Above left: BCA President and CEO William Canary, left, and incoming BCA Chairman Carl Jamison, center, present outgoing chairman Terry Kellogg with a framed gavel.

Above right: BCA Board Member Perry Hand, Volker, Inc., raises a question during the BCA board meeting.
Challenges, Opportunities continued

The joint meeting came a month after the November elections and in the midst of the debate over the fiscal cliff. In his remarks, Timmons noted that our nation’s current policies and the gridlock in Washington have veered our nation off course.

“Our nation’s leaders can put us on a path to prosperity and growth. Every generation before us has made the case for American exceptionalism, and we must do the same,” Timmons said.

Timmons also shared the results of a new survey by the NAM and the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) that showed that more than half of small businesses and manufacturers nationwide would not start a business today because of our country’s uncertain future.

From the burdensome regulatory environment created by agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Labor Relations Board, to tax increases and energy policy, American manufacturers and small businesses face significant challenges. According to Timmons, today it is 20 percent more expensive to manufacture in the United States than anywhere else in the world.

The current business and political environment makes it difficult for manufacturers to innovate, grow their businesses, compete on a level playing field in the global marketplace and, most importantly, create jobs, said Timmons. For our nation’s economy to grow, he said, leaders in Washington must create certainty and implement pro-growth policies.

In looking ahead to the 113th Congress, Timmons noted that more than 90 new lawmakers will be heading to Washington, providing manufacturers the opportunity to shape the debate. “Manufacturers can offer a necessary perspective as Washington tackles these challenges,” he said. “We are stronger when we are united, and we need to use that strength to promote policies that make this country more competitive.”
In the spirit of the holiday season, funds formerly used to produce and mail Business Council of Alabama holiday cards were donated on behalf of BCA members to Magic Moments, an Alabama non-profit organization that helps make wishes and dreams come true for children with life-threatening and life-altering medical conditions. Magic Moments, which operates exclusively on donations from individuals, corporations, foundations, civic/professional groups and events, fulfills the nonmedical wishes of chronically ill children in Alabama. Magic Moments fulfills approximately 100 wishes each year, and since its inception in 1984, the organization has granted more than 4,200 magic moments. For more information, visit www.magicmoments.org.

BCA gives holiday gift to Magic Moments

Top: Joyce Spielberger, executive director of Magic Moments, accepts a check from BCA Chairman Terry Kellogg.

Above: “Angel Wings” by Carson, age 11, was the artwork sent electronically to all BCA members in place of a traditional holiday mailing. Carson, who has cancer, is one of the 4,200 children who has had a wish fulfilled by Magic Moments.