AT&T’s McCallum Voted BCA 2014 Chairman
At Annual Meeting in Birmingham

Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama officers elected

BY DANA BEYERLE


The Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama also elected officers who serve one-year terms and directors who serve staggered three-year terms.

Marty Abroms, president, Abroms & Associates PC of Florence, was elected 1st vice chairman, Tommy Lee, CEO, Vulcan Inc. in Foley, was elected 2nd vice chairman, Phil Dotts, principal, Public Financial Management Inc., was elected secretary, and Charles Nailen, BBG Specialty Foods Inc./Taco Bell of Dothan, was elected treasurer. Fournier J. “Boots” Gale III, senior vice president and general counsel Regions Financial Corp. in Birmingham, was elected general counsel.

“I think you all would agree that we have an outstanding group of volunteer leaders for BCA,” said BCA President and CEO William J. Canary. “Our new leaders who will represent the BCA in a new year will make us even stronger and more effective.”

Northern District of Alabama U.S. Attorney Joyce Vance was the guest speaker. She described her office’s role in Alabama criminal and civil cases. Vance is the top-ranking federal law enforcement official in the northern district of Alabama.

Her priorities have been terrorism and national security, financial fraud and public corruption, violent crime, and protecting vulnerable members of society. The U.S. Attorney directs the prosecution of federal crimes, defends the United States in civil cases, and collects debts owed the United States.

Top, left: BCA’s 2013 Chairman Carl Jamison reflects on his year as chairman at the BCA/CCAA Annual Meeting.

Top, right: Joyce Vance, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, keynoted the lunch meeting.

Above: More than 200 people gathered in December for the fifth Joint Annual Meeting of the BCA and the CCAA in Birmingham at the Harbert Center.
BCA elects 23 new board members

The BCA elected several new members to its board of directors. They are: Josh Brown, Pfizer, Inc.; Joe Morton, Business Education Alliance of Alabama; Randy McKinney, Realty Executives Gulf Coast; Craig Perciavalle, Austal USA; Bill Sisson, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce; Richard Stimpson, Leavell Investment Management, Inc.; Francine Wasden, Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce; Jeannine Birmingham, Alabama Society of CPAs; Jason Goodson, W.K. Upchurch Construction Co., Inc.; John Mazyck, the Frazer Lanier Co.; Jack Naramore, Wells Fargo; Joseph Markiewicz, GE Aviation; Lew Drummond, Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association; Jason Hoff, Mercedes-Benz U.S. International; Jack Darnall, Brasfield & Gorrie, Inc.; Heath Johnson, State Farm Insurance Co.; Mike Kemp, Kemp Management Solutions; Scott Sargent, BBVA Compass; Chipper Washburn, Alabama Self-Insured Worker’s Compensation Fund; Jeff Thompson, Alabama Aerospace Industry Association; Joe Valley, Lockheed Martin Corp.; Barry McGriff, McGriff Industries, Inc.; and Wade Weaver, Valley Budweiser, Inc.

CCAA elects officers

CCAA officers elected for 2014 were Jim Page, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, who was elected chairman. Brian Hilson, president and CEO of the Birmingham Business Alliance, was elected chairman-elect. Morri Yancey, president, Lake Guntersville Chamber of Commerce, was elected vice-chair for financial affairs, and Ashley Eiland, executive vice president of the Andalusia Area Chamber of Commerce, was elected vice-chair for programs.

Reflecting on his year as chairman of CCAA, Ronnie Acker said, “We have accomplished so much during this year and our association has many things for which to be thankful. We continued the great work that was done last year, hosted a number of successful events, grew our membership and positioned our association for even greater things ahead.”

Page presented Acker with the Past Chairman’s Recognition. “Together with the board members that were just nominated and elected to serve with me, our mission will truly be ‘driving prosperity through stronger Chambers of Commerce in Alabama’,” Page said.
Two annual awards presented

Kirk Mancer, president and CEO of the Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce, presented the Jamie Wallace Award to retired Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Win Hallett. The Jamie Wallace Award is named for a long-time Alabama chamber of commerce executive and is presented only in years in which an individual meets the strict stated criteria of “a chamber professional who has displayed outstanding attributes in their daily vocation.”

Hallett served 22 years leading one of Alabama’s largest chambers. He served as chairman of the U.S. Chamber’s Committee of 100, on the U.S. Chamber’s Board of Directors, and on the board’s nominating committee.

Canary presented the inaugural Thompsonian Leadership Award to 2003 BCA Chairman Mike Thompson for whom the award was named. “He is the visionary who initiated the formal partnership between the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama and the Business Council of Alabama,” Canary said.

BCA annually makes a donation to its outgoing chairman’s favorite charity, and Jamison presented a check to Marsha Sprayberry of Project Blessings of Tuscaloosa. Project Blessings is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping low-income and underprivileged homeowners repair worn and weathered homes into safe and secure structures. “In the aftermath of the 2011 tornadoes, Project Blessings has truly made dreams come true,” Jamison said.

Top, left: Past recipients of the Jamie Wallace Award join Win Hallett, center, former president and CEO of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, the 2013 recipient. Picture from left are: Steve Holt, president, Shoals Chamber of Commerce; Hallett; Rick Roden, president and CEO, Greater Jackson County Chamber of Commerce; Randy George, president, Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce; Kirk Mancer, president, Greater Shelby County Chamber of Commerce; and William Canary, BCA president and CEO.

Top, right: BCA President and CEO William J. Canary, left, presents outgoing BCA Chairman Carl Jamison, right, with a frame of photos commemorating his year as chairman.

Center, right: BCA President and CEO William J. Canary, right, and BCA Chairman Carl Jamison, left, present the inaugural Thompsonian Leadership Award to the 2003 BCA Chairman Mike Thompson, center, for whom the award was named.

Right: New BCA board member Lew Drummond, left, of the Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association, and Ron Davis, right, of the Alabama Entrepreneurship Institute, attend the Dec. 6 BCA board meeting.
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Applications are due by April 3.

Mark your calendars.

This year’s awards luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14 at 11:30 a.m. at the Alabama Activity Center in Montgomery. The keynote speaker is Jason Hoff, president and CEO of Mercedes-Benz U.S. International.