C losing 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 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-
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, Infirmary 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; Rid McAnnally, Energen Corporation, Birmingham; Robert Vaughn, SunBelt Golf Corporation, Birmingham; Phil Webb, Webb Concrete and Building Materials, Heflin; Morri Yancy, Lake Guntersville Chamber of Commerce, Guntersville; Joane 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:


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


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


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.
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.
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.”