A Full Day on the Hill

Record Participation in BCA’s 2015 Capital Leadership Day

The Business Council of Alabama’s 2015 spring board of director’s meeting was bookended by a ribbon cutting for renovated offices and a well-attended legislative reception for several hundred guests.

BCA 2015 Chairman Marty Abroms, President and Managing Shareholder of Abroms & Associates P.C. in Florence, presided over a ribbon-cutting for the renovated BCA offices in the Business Center of Alabama.

“Today is a special day,” Abroms said. “The BCA has hit a milestone as the dominant business advocacy organization in the state.”

The ribbon-cutting was a day for reflection and outlook for the future. “We’re in a great place but we cannot rest on our laurels,” Abroms said in a challenge for continued excellence.

The BCA turned 30 years old in 2015 and has never been stronger in its original role of advocating for Alabama business interests in the halls of government in Montgomery and Washington, D.C.

In addition to Abroms, attending the ribbon-cutting were BCA First Vice Chairman Tommy Lee, President and CEO of Vulcan Inc. of Foley; 2014 Chairman Fred McCallum, President of AT&T Alabama; BCA Treasurer and a Past Chairman Charles Nailen Jr., President and owner of BBG Specialty Foods Inc. in Dothan; Jeff Coleman, President and CEO of Coleman World Group of Midland City; Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama President and CEO Jeremy Arthur; and BCA President and CEO William J. Canary.

“The accomplishments belong to all of you,” Canary said. “The renovation begins a new era physically for the BCA and indicates the faith we have in the future for business, our members, and our organization.”

The BCA-CCAA Partnership is the first of its kind in the nation and strengthens both the BCA and Alabama’s local chambers. “We remain a model of grass roots partnership,” Arthur said.
Business Education Alliance of Alabama President and Chairman Joe Morton, Ph.D., and BEA Finance Chairman Jay Love attended the ribbon-cutting.

“We are in collaboration with the BCA to enhance workforce development,” Morton said. “What we’ve been able to accomplish benefits us all.”

“We have relished our roles and are excited where we are headed,” Love said.

Following the ribbon cutting, new BCA officers were introduced at the spring board of directors meeting at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa.

Abroms, presiding over the new board orientation and board of director’s meeting, highlighted the BCA’s past year that included the November election that increased pro-business numbers in the House and Senate.

“We had a successful 2014 in the Legislature and the election cycle,” Abroms said. “We also recognize The Partnership. We find it produces great dividends.”

New board members received a brief orientation about BCA activities.

New board members are Owen Bailey, USA Children’s and Women’s Hospital; Jo Bonner, University of Alabama System; Mark Crosswhite, Alabama Power Co.; Watson Donald, Southern Research Institute; Craig Dowdy, The Laclede Group; Joe Duncan, Huie, Fernambucq & Stewart, LLP; Matt Everitt, Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc.; Michael Hardin, Culverhouse College of Commerce; Mike Lanier, Hoar Program Management; Burton McDonald, BB&T; Scott McNelley, Admiral Movers; Jordan Plaster, Merrill

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The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama | Vulcan, Inc.
Canary praised the BCA’s volunteer leadership and thanked the BCA board and staff for continued leadership.

Former Czech Republic Ambassador, Alabama Legislator, and businessman William “Bill” Cabaniss Jr. spoke at the board of directors meeting and later signed copies of his biography “William Jelks Cabaniss, Jr., Crossing Lines, In His Business, Political, and Diplomatic Life.” It was written by Worth Earlwood “Woody” Norman Jr.

The Capital Leadership Day was capped by the most well attended legislative reception in the BCA’s history. Governor Robert Bentley and Lt. Gov. Kay Ivey attended the BCA Reception Saluting State Government Leaders, as did many BCA members, House and Senate members, and legislative affairs representatives. TBAADV
Profiled in a FOX News documentary entitled, “The Man Who Killed Usama Bin Laden,” Robert O’Neill will share insights and experiences as one of the most highly decorated combat veterans of our time at the Business Council of Alabama’s 2015 Chairman’s Dinner. If you’re a contributor to the BCA’s Carrying the Flag for Business campaign, you can be there. Contact Nathan Lindsay for more information at nathanl@bcatoday.org.