

North East Business Association

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Bill Moore
Tallahassee State Bank

NEBA News

Editors:
Maureen Thompson- Media Options
Nancy Burns- Leon County Sheriff's Office

The North East Business Association publishes NEBA News bi-monthly. Articles of interest are welcome. Publication of submitted materials is subject to review and space available. Article deadline is the 1st day of the month of publication.

Send articles, letters, photos or suggestions to: NEBA News at the following email addresses: burnsn@mail.co.leon.fl.us or maureen@mediaoptionsinc.com or FAX-850-893-4097

For additional information phone Maureen Thompson at 850-668-0948 or Nancy Burns at 850-922-3331

President's Corner

From Maureen Thompson:

As 2005 gets underway, business has been brisk in the Northeast and eastern quadrants of Tallahassee.

My primary goals in 2005 are to continue the amazing growth, and visibility that NEBA has achieved in the last few years. We now boast over 100 members, including businesses from the old East Side and West Side Associations, and attendance at our monthly luncheons continues to break records. This is due primarily to the great job Ted Thomas, our Program Chair, does of bringing in speakers that address the issues that affect us the most.

In an effort to stay abreast of these issues, NEBA Board Members regularly consult with Chamber officials, elected officials and other community leaders regarding policy decisions and trends. We communicate these issues to you through our newsletter, at monthly luncheons, and through Peggy Munroe's awesome email list. Please look for these communiqués and feel free to respond! You can be certain we will make your views heard loud and clear downtown – and that we are being listened to.

An issue that continues to stay on our radar screen is the City of

Tallahassee's proposed Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. Spearheaded by Commissioner Debbie Lightsey, this Ordinance would require builders with developments of over 50 units to make 10% of the units "inclusionary housing" (currently valued at \$110,000 - \$158,000). It is the opinion of your Board that there should first be a study done to determine if there is a true need for regulating the building of affordable housing, rather than enacting an Ordinance first and seeing what the fallout is, as the City proposes to do. We will continue to keep you updated on this issue, and would encourage you to call City Commissioners to express your opinion directly.

Finally, I'd like to welcome to the Board Bill Moore, from Tallahassee State Bank, and Jerrell Lowery, with State Farm Insurance. They are a welcome addition to returning Board Members, and are already contributing valuable insight to Board Meetings.

We have many exciting events planned for 2005, so mark your calendars now for the second Tuesday of each month, 1:00 pm at Lucy Ho's. You never know what you might hear!

Thanks For The Toys!



The NEBA would just like to take a moment to thank all of you who contributed toys during the NEBA Holiday party on December 14th. There were so many great gifts that we are sure many children were certainly delighted to receive them.

We are proud to have been a part of the Toys for Tots campaign. Toys for Tots is a mes-

sage of hope for the future that has motivated youngsters to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens and community leaders. Toys for Tots has earned the distinction as a program which plays an important role in helping youngsters emerge from a background of poverty to adulthood as assets to society. Toys for Tots not only benefits children, but also

has a positive impact on communities, on businesses - large and small, on the Marine Corps and on the nation. Toys for Tots is one vehicle for addressing the issue of poverty among children.

Thanks also to Will and Jennifer Messer for hosting a delightful Holiday party. We hope everyone had a joyful holiday season.

It's Tax Time Again

Does the thought of preparing your small business tax return leave a feeling of guilt? Are you waiting until the last minute for some inspiration? Wait no longer. Here are 10 tips to overcoming your tax procrastination habits.

Free Your Calendar: A big culprit to procrastination is time. Take a look at your schedule and block out a specific day as tax day. If you need to close shop or get help to free your time, do it.

Contract a Bookkeeper: Being overwhelmed by the amount of work to complete your small business tax return might suggest the need for a bookkeeper. A bookkeeper can help you organize your business, so every April your tax matters are easier to deal with.

Use Tax Software: Tax software can automate many of the routine calculations of your tax return. Many software programs come complete with all the necessary forms to ease the burden of tax preparation.

Find an Accountant: As your small business grows in revenue and complexity, an accountant can help you avoid costly mistakes and frustration. A specialist can aid in other areas such as cash flow planning and providing practical advice.

Hire Yourself: What are you worth to your company? Calculate your earnings over the last year and divide by the time worked to get your hourly rate. Now estimate your tax return dollars divided into the hours to complete your return. If your figure is higher than or equal to your hourly rate, it should motivate you to start your tax return.

Get an Extension: Time is a rare commodity for most small business owners. Your tax procrastination may add more pressure and little time to your business. Consider filing an IRS Extension of Time to File Your Tax Return form.

Take a Tax Course: A lack of understanding often leads to delay. A one day course on small business

tax can provide you with more knowledge and confidence. Consider the free IRS Small Business Workshop available online or through various partner organizations. Topics covered: recordkeeping, income, expenses, employment taxes, electronic filing, and much more.

Start Small: Remember back to your company start-up. If you thought of all the tasks to start, you probably would have been paralyzed with fear. You succeeded by taking one step at a time. Apply the "start small" tactic to your tax preparation. Start with a simple task such as organizing your files and build from there.

Tax time will not make your top ten list of fun things to do. However, the pain of putting it off may be greater than actually doing your small business tax. Free your mind from the guilt of procrastination and reap the reward of less stress this April.

Source: /sbinformation.about.com

Calendar

NEBA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at Lucy Ho's- 1700 Halstead Blvd. from 1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$9.00 per person

February 15- Jim Davis Executive Director from Blueprint 2000.

March 8- Chris Floyd- American Red Cross

April 12- Commissioner Debbie Lightsey- Inclusionary Housing

Special Alert....

The Florida Association of Counties has proposed, by way of the Florida Senate, a bill that would eliminate the requirement that local voters approve a cent sales tax for growth or a half cent sales tax for schools. If this law passes, we will have lost our right to vote for or against a local tax increase. Do we really want our county commissioners to have the authority to raise our taxes with a simple majority vote??? We have spoken out in the past against unnecessary increases in local sales tax ...let's do it again by calling or emailing our local state senators and representatives. You can find names and contact information for our local delegation by visiting: www.leg.state.fl.us/.

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North East Business Association
c/o 2762 Capital Circle N.E.
Tallahassee, Fl. 32308



NEBA News

WWW.NEBAONLINE.ORG

January- February 2005

Welcome to Our NEBA Board

As 2005 commences, we welcome the new Officers and Directors of NEBA. At our monthly meeting on January 11th, a new slate was unanimously approved by the membership. Following are the individuals who have agreed to take leadership roles for the coming year.

Officers:

President- Maureen Thompson- Media Options;
Vice President- Nancy Burns- Leon County Sheriff's Office;
Secretary - Rich Blankenship- Carr, Riggs & Ingram CPA.;
Treasurer - Barbara Clements- Bridel and Clements LLC;
PastPresident- Will Messer- Messer Insurance

Directors:

Scott Hunt, Hunt Insurance Group; Peggy Munroe, Mays-Munroe; Kurt Tellers, St. James Certified Property Management; Ted Thomas, Thomas Appraisals & Real Estate;
Jim Ashlock;
Angie Hearl-Nationwide Insurance; Jerrell Lowery- State Farm Insurance;
Bill Moore- Tallahassee State Bank

Please don't forget to thank these professionals for their hard work, and for making NEBA the vibrant organization that it is today!

The North East Business Association would like to wish all of our members a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year 2005!

Job Well Done

The North East Business Association sends our deepest appreciation to outgoing Board Members Alan Null and Kevin Tuten for their contributions and service to the NEBA. Best of luck to both of you in your future endeavors.

Editor's Message

As the New Year begins, we the editors would like to remind all of the members of the North East Business Association that the NEBA NEWS is for your use as a business tool. Please use the newsletter as a forum to address issues, promote a project your business may be involved in or for other business topics fellow NEBA members might find of interest. We also are always looking for articles relating to small business issues.

We also encourage all of you to invite your neighboring businesses to attend our meetings and join the North East Business Association. May your business prosper in the coming year.

Nancy and Maureen

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