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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: burns@mail.co.leon.fl.us or mo@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 Alan Null:

As I've mentioned in previous columns, I've asked every NEBA member to bring a new member into the fold this year. To help accomplish this goal, your Board has instituted a phone campaign, in an effort to clean up our outdated mailing list. Currently we are working from old, informal northeast and eastside member lists and it's been quite a challenge bringing these names and numbers into the 21st Century. I'd like to personally request that all NEBA members send in the names, addresses, phone numbers, and/or email addresses of current or former NEBA or Eastside members that you haven't seen around in awhile (send it to NEBA News Editors, listed on this page). It's easier to sell an interested business owner on NEBA if they receive our newsletter and read about our great programs and networking opportunities.

As we update our lists, we're also reminding members that dues are due in June. Dues are only \$35/year and they pay for speaker lunches, this newsletter, our annual Christmas party, and other incidental expenses that may occur. I don't know of any other professional organization

that consistently provides timely, informative information through monthly meetings and a newsletter - for only \$35 per year. So write that check and mail it to the return address on this newsletter, and save us one more phone call!

Don't forget we still have a new member challenge on the table: any member who brings in 3 new members by the end of June will have his/her member dues waived AND will receive a "member spotlight" column in the NEBA News. NEBA provides an excellent venue for networking with Tallahassee's decision makers and most business owners would appreciate the offer to join.

Finally, if you need an invoice for dues, please email me at: alannull@nettally.com. We will be experimenting with electronic invoices for all members this year, to save postage and to hopefully make the renewal process easier for all of you. I'm sure as we move to this new process some people will fall through the cracks, so we've also provided a membership application in this newsletter. Before you send yours in, don't forget to make a copy and "bring a member" to our next meeting!

An Invitation To Join NEBA

If you are a business owner in the general area of northeast Tallahassee, you are invited to join and support our organization. We are particularly interested in active people who are willing to devote some time to the association.

Remember, investing time in your business organization is an investment in yourself! We need everyone's help to make this group one of the leading business organizations in Tallahassee. Annual dues are \$35 per year payable in July.

Send membership application to:
Peggy Munroe
c/o Mays Munroe, Inc.
2762 Capital Circle NE
Tallahassee, FL 32308
850-385-9495

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____
Business Name _____
Street Address _____
City & Zip _____
Primary Contact _____
Business Phone _____ Fax _____
Email _____
Website _____
Services You Offer _____
Products You Offer _____
Days You Are Open _____
Business Hours _____

How do you prefer to receive notice of upcoming meetings?
Email ___ Fax ___ Phone ___
Annual Dues- Cost \$35
Paid by Check # _____ Cash _____

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(the Democrat's parent company) has a strong presence on the internet.

Regarding the recent controversy at FSU, involving coaches Minnix and Hart, Mike's opinion is that they should not be dismissed, although he does feel they weren't as forthright as they should have

been. On the question of consolidation, Mike is still solidly in favor of it. He's thinking of having a reporter investigate just exactly how much money has been spent on the various lawsuits the City and County file against each other, and using that information to bolster his argument for consolidation. Right now the Sheriff, Mayor, County Chair and the Democrat all support

City/County consolidation – so the time may be ripe to take it to the voters yet again.

When asked how he thinks the permitting process can be simplified and streamlined, Mike said the solution is simple: elect officials that understand the issue and how to change it. It's not so much a process problem as a people problem right now.



NEBA News

WWW.NEBAONLINE.ORG

May- June 2003

Tallahassee Democrat Publisher Grilled At NEBA Lunch Meeting

Mr. Mike Pate from the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper, was an informative and interesting speaker. After being grilled by the audience he finished the job "Well Done."

Mike Pate, Publisher of the Tallahassee Democrat, was our speaker in April and he let NEBA members choose his topics to address. While we were being served lunch, participants were invited to submit questions for Mike on index cards, which he then addressed during his talk.

The first question addressed the Workers Compensation crisis in Florida, and the fact that private contractors are finding it virtually impossible to find Workers Compensation coverage in our State. A representative from the Florida Homebuilders Association revealed that a private contractor might pay \$150 for Workers Compensation insurance for every \$100 in payroll expense. Mike responded by agreeing that this is a complex and difficult issue – and he guessed that we'll end up with at

least two special sessions to deal with both workers comp and malpractice insurance. He pointed out that our community is not hurt as badly as some others because the construction industry has been strong, thanks to our two hospitals and our Universities. As these projects wind up we'll certainly see a downturn – and we can only hope the overall economy will be strong enough to get us through it.

When asked if he would have fired Geraldo Rivera and Peter Arnett for the comments they made on-air during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Mike answered with a resounding "Yes!" But he did admit that reporters tow a fine line as they strive for impartiality. As members of our community, reporters serve on volunteer boards and sometimes are privy to confidential information that they can't disclose – although the reporter in them might want to. This is the situation that is occurring with our imbedded reporters and these two just made extraordinarily bad judgment calls.

Mike also addressed accusations that the Democrat "editorializes" on the front pages. He

theorized that what most readers really have a problem with are the headlines – the stories themselves are mainly balanced, but the headlines sometimes make them seem like they aren't.

Mike next addressed the impact that electronic media and the internet have had on newspapers. He claimed that not only has the Democrat not suffered a decline in subscribers due to competition – they are the fastest growing newspaper in the state. And in the "if you can't beat 'em" category: Mike reminded the group that the Democrat can be read online and Knight Ridder

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Business Tips....

What kind of security measures must I take?

Crimes ranging from armed robbery to embezzlement can destroy even the best businesses. You should install a good physical security system. Just as important, you must establish policies and safeguards to ensure awareness and honesty among your personnel. Because computer systems can be used to defraud as well as keep records, you should check into a computer security program. Consider taking seminars on how to spot and deter shoplifting and how to handle cash and merchandise; it is time and money well spent. Finally, careful screening when hiring can be your best ally against crime.

Should I hire family members to work for me?

Frequently, family members of the owner "help out in the business." For some small business owners it is a rewarding experience; for others it can cause irreparable damage. Carefully consider their loyalty and respect for you as the owner-manager. Can you keep your family and business decisions separate?

Do I need a computer?

Small business today faces growing inventory requirements, increased customer expectations, rising costs and intense competition. Computers can provide information that leads to better returns on investment. At the same time, they help you cope with the many other pressures of your business. Computers are not cure alls, however, and considerable care should be given to: (1) deciding if you need one, and (2) selecting the best system (or personal computer) for your business.

Calendar

NEBA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Old Town Cafe on Timberlane Road from 11:45 am - 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$10.00 per person

May 13– Mayor John Marks will be invited to address the group.

June 10 –Superintendent Bill Montford will discuss the 5% school tax.

July 8 – Doug Barr of the NW Fla. Water Management District, will discuss water management in our region.

Board Meetings are held at 12:00 pm the last Thursday of each month at 3606 Maclay Blvd.



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