



NEBA News

November- December 2002

Farewell President Thomas

Under the leadership of Ted Thomas, 2002 has been a banner year for NEBA. 2001 was rather tumultuous, as we were forced to find a new meeting place and time. Once we re-located to Old Town, things began to improve dramatically, and that upswing continued under Ted's leadership.

The strong mix of business-oriented and political programs

he scheduled this year have helped lure members back. Backed by a strong and active Board, Ted also recruited many new members this year, including those that joined us when the former East Side Association merged with NEBA.

Ted also revived the newsletter, which is edited and published by Maureen Thompson of Media Options



and Nancy Burns of the Leon County Sheriff's Department.

We expect Alan Null to continue the tradition during his term as president next year!

Come to NEBA's Holiday Party

NEBA President Ted Thomas would like to invite all NEBA members to the NEBA holiday party on December 10, from 6 P.M. - 8 P.M.

It will be held in lieu of our monthly meeting at Old Town, and will be

held at Ted's house, 1469 Vieux Carre (off of Hermitage Blvd.). There is no charge except for a new unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots program. The value is your decision. NEBA supports the Toys for Tots program and we look

forward to seeing you at the party.

ABOUT TOYS FOR TOTS

Toys for Tots is the Marine Corps' premier community action program, one of the nation's flagship



charitable endeavors, an American tradition and a national treasure. For 51 years, Marines have been the unchallenged leaders in looking after needy children at Christmas. The Toys for Tots message of hope for the future has motivated young-

sters to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens and Please see "TOYS" on page 3

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North East Business Association

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Media Options

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MobileNETS, Inc.

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Farmers and Merchants Bank

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Clements & Associates Inc.

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 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 Ted Thomas:

No news on the Lake Lafayette Stormwater Ordinance. As you may recall, this is a key issue for small businesses in the North East. If this ordinance is passed as proposed, it will affect everyone's ability to expand their business or home. We will keep you informed, and remember to ask, "Where's the science?"

Attendance at our monthly meetings has risen. Our last 2 monthly meetings had 42 and 44 members attending, respectively. It's great to see our East Side members joining, and participating in these spirited meetings. (Please remember that East Side dues are paid through June of 2003).

The Executive Committee is proud to welcome Don May and

Barbara Clements (East Side Officers) to its Board. The Executive Committee meets prior to each general meeting to talk about new business and programs for the monthly meetings. It is also their role to keep NEBA on target for it's goals, as well as monitor the financial health of the organization.

This will be my last column for the year, since I finish my tenure as President of the Association in December. We have some great momentum, and I know that under President-Elect Alan Null we continue to expand our membership and leadership in the business community.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve a great organization. Stay informed! Stay active! Se you at The Old Towne Café for lunch the second Tuesday of each month.

Looking For Candidates

The 2003 Officers and Board of Directors nominations are nearing completion. The names submitted for next year's offices include:

President- Alan Null

Secretary- Maureen Thompson

Treasurer- Barry Ward

We are still looking for a candidate for President Elect and for two vacant Board positions.

If you are interested in one of

these positions or would like to nominate a candidate for one of these positions, please

contact Ted Thomas at 545-1241 . The full slate will be presented to the membership and voted on at the January 2003 monthly meeting.



Address Updates

Would you be interested in winning a gift certificate to one of our area's fine restaurants? All you have to do is update your current mailing address, email and fax number. This will make you eligible for a monthly drawing at our NEBA meetings through February 2003.

We are in the process of

updating our business addresses and need your help. Please send your current information (this includes those who are currently on the mailing list) to Peggy Munroe at Fax# 422-2016 or email: peggy@talstar.com.

Good luck. Hope you're a winner!

"TOYS" from front page

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.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

If you reflect on your own life and recall what it meant to receive a toy at Christmas, you cannot help but realize the positive impact that a shiny new toy had on your life. Concurrently, you can imagine how devastating it would have been to receive nothing while all your friends received a new toy. Many may recall when a neighbor received nothing at Christmas because his or her family was experiencing hard times. It is painful to think about the impact a Christmas without a toy had on that child and

how adversely it impacted on his or her self-esteem and future.

EACH AMERICAN'S CHALLENGE

Most American adults want to make a difference. The problem is how to help, given the hectic pace of our life-styles. Toys for Tots offers a simple solution for even the busiest American, because it:

- Provides a ray of hope for the future
- Is a passive mentoring program
- Has a positive influence on our nation's neediest youngsters.
- Has motivated youngsters to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens and community leaders.
- Is a way busy Americans can play a positive role in enhancing the development and steering of needy youngsters.
- Has a positive impact on communities and on the economic posture of businesses, large and small, throughout the nation.

The bottom line is that Toys for Tots makes a difference!

See You At The Party!

New Members Spotlight On...

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLP

Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLP formerly Williams, Cox, Weidner and Cox, is a certified public accounting firm with 11 office locations in Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. We provide clients with the highest standards in consulting, auditing, accounting, pension administration, human resource development, tax and financial services. CRI is ranked 68th in the United States by Public Accounting Report with 39 partners and over 230 employees. Please visit us on the web at www.carriggssingram.com, <http://www.carriggssingram.com> or contact our Tallahassee representative: Richard E. "Rich" Blankenship, Esq., CPA at (850) 878-8777 or rblanken@wccw-cpa.com, <mailto:rblanken@wccw-cpa.com>

Charles Schwab

Jack Ramsay is the branch manager of the Charles Schwab office in Tallahassee. He has 30 years of experience in the investment business. For more information call Jack at 850-297-2481

Calendar

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

Upcoming topics include:

November 12: Candidates for the Mayoral race, a panel discussion

December 10: Christmas party (see article on front page)

January 14: NEBA Elections and City Commission forum.
Expanded meeting 11:45A.M. - 1:30 P.M..

February 11: Discussion on the permitting process in Thomasville, Georgia by the Thomasville City Manager

Business Tips....

What business should I choose?

Usually, the best business for you is the one in which you are most skilled and interested. As you review your options, you may wish to consult local experts and business persons about the growth potential of various businesses in your area. Matching your background with the local market will increase your chance of success.

What is a business plan and why do I need one?

A business plan precisely defines your business, identifies your goals and serves as your firm's resume. Its basic components include a current and pro forma balance sheet, an income statement and a cash flow analysis. It helps you allocate resources properly, handle unforeseen complications, and make the right decisions. Because it provides specific and organized information about your company and how you will repay borrowed money, a good business plan is a crucial part of any loan package. Additionally, it can tell your sales personnel, suppliers and others about your operations and goals.

Why do I need to define my business in detail?

It may seem silly to ask yourself, "What business am I really in," but some owner-managers have gone broke because they never answered that question. One watch store owner realized that most of his time was spent repairing watches while most of his money was spent selling them. He finally decided he was in the repair business and discontinued the sales operations. His profits improved dramatically.



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