



# NEBA News

November- December 2005

## President's Farewell

**by: Maureen Thompson**

As 2005 comes screeching to an end, I am reminded of that trite old saying, "time sure flies when you're having fun." I must be having loads of fun in my old age, because time is definitely flying by in my world. It's hard to believe that this is already the last NEBA Newsletter issue of my Presidency, but since it is, I thought I'd take a look back at all the fun we've had this year.

Politically NEBA has never been stronger or more visible. Your NEBA Board members hit the ground running early in the year, keeping you updated on issues like a proposal in the legislature to allow County Commissioners to raise sales taxes with a simple commission majority vote; the "inclusionary housing ordinance" ultimately passed by the City; and a brief attempt by a certain County Commissioner to raise our taxes to pay for indigent health care. As the year progressed, and the City explored partnering in an effort to build a coal plant in North Florida, NEBA took extraordinary measures to inform our members about the issue, through our monthly programs and bi-monthly newsletter. Ultimately the Board, in a close and hotly debated vote, decided to

go on the record in support of the City's position.

Our programs, under the continuing leadership of Ted Thomas, were stellar this year. We've heard from political leaders like Tony Grippa and Loranne Ausley. We've had speakers that addressed issues that can have great impact on our community's growth, like the coal plant, Fallschase, Blueprint 2000, and the Economic Development Council. And a couple of times, when the scheduled speaker didn't show up, we put together programs with just the help of our very involved and informed members. Next year is another political year, with many local seats up for grabs, so I'm confident you'll be able to meet and hear from political hopefuls at our monthly meetings in '06 as well.

Probably due in large part to the active and visible roll NEBA takes in the community, our membership numbers have continued to be strong. Our dues-paying members number well over 100 for the second year in a row, and mailing list numbers are over 200. More importantly, monthly meetings are a place where members are able to express their opinions in an open forum and gain consensus

with other business owners while debating issues with experts in their fields.

Basically, if it affects businesses in Tallahassee NEBA is going to be aware of it and we're going to bring it to your attention. Because of this fact, and because we don't hesitate to take positions and to broadcast those positions to our members, together we have more impact that we do individually.

As the year races to a close, I hope all of you look back on 2005 as a year of success in your various businesses. With the support of a fantastic Board I can say that my year as President of NEBA has been successful, and I am grateful for their support. I look forward to supporting Nancy next year as she takes NEBA to the next level, and I look forward to seeing all of you at our monthly luncheons.

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## North East Business Association

### Officers

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

### Board Directors

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

### NEBA News

#### Editors:

**Maureen Thompson**- Media Options  
**Nancy Burns**- Leon Co. 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@leoncountyfl.gov 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

## Holiday Shopping/Robbery Safety Tips

by Sgt. Nancy Burns  
Leon County Sheriff's Office

Shopping during the holiday season can present unique danger. Taking a few prevention measures can help keep your holiday season joyous.

### *The Parking Lot*

- Become familiar with the layout, such as exits, garage ramps, store locations.
- Note where you have parked, such as the section, aisle or pole number.
- Walk "purposefully" and be aware of your surroundings!
- Take note of: Persons wandering aimlessly, and suspicious vehicles.
- Don't overburden yourself with packages, children, etc.
- Keep all valuables stored in your vehicle out of sight.
- Secure cell phones, purses, and presents in the trunk or covered area.

### *Your Vehicle*

- Always lock the doors and roll the windows all the way up.
- Keep registration and insurance cards with you, not in the car.
- If you have a security device, use it.

### *Shopping*

- Be aware of your purse at all times.
- Carry your purse with the flap facing you, and hold it close to your body. Don't place the strap across your body.

- Be alert for pickpockets and thieves.
- If someone bumps you, check your wallet or purse immediately.
- Many pickpockets work in teams, one will distract you while the other takes your money.
- Be wary of people setting their shopping bags down next to yours.
- When dining, remember to keep your purse on the floor between your feet. Never hang your purse on the back of your chair.
- Never carry large sums of money, if you must, don't flash it around.

### *Credit Card Safety*

- Always sign the back of your credit cards, or "Check I.D."
- Remember to retrieve your cards after a transaction.
- Know where the receipts/carbon copies for the purchase are after the transaction.
- If cards are lost or stolen report them immediately to your bank or card company.
- Do not put credit card numbers on checks.
- Scrutinize monthly statements for purchases you did not make.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

### *Business Robbery Tips*

- Maintain visibility throughout the store. Keep all doors and windows clear of signs and posters that can hinder visibility.

Please see "*TIPS*" on back page

# Join Us At At The NEBA Holiday Party



NEBA President Maureen Thompson would like to invite all NEBA members to the NEBA holiday party on December 13, from 6 P.M. - 8 P.M. It will be held in lieu of our monthly meeting at Lucy Ho's, and will be held at Ted Thomas' home, 1469 Vieux Carre Dr. 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 youngsters to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens and com-

munity 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.

## NEBA Welcomes Several New Business Members

\*Artis Tree Gifts (owned by Big Bend Hospice), Brenda Boggs 1355 A-3 Market St, 32312, 893-2937

\*WHBT 1410 AM, Marshall Baldwin, 2546 Golden Park Lane, 32308, 510-6671 [www.floridaradioactive.com](http://www.floridaradioactive.com)

\*Another Broken Egg Cafe, Mike Schmidt, 3500 Kinhega Dr, Tallahassee, 32312 907-3447 (Mike, of course, is doing our Christmas party.)

\*Rich Blankenship, CPA, has now formed his own business: Blankenship & Poppell LLC, 1963 Village Green Way, Suite B, 32308 383-0222

## *Farewell President*

### *Maureen Thompson*

With the start of 2006, we will be welcoming a new President to NEBA. We wish to thank the outgoing President, Maureen Thompson, for her many contributions to NEBA this year. She has succeeded in maintaining a top notch association and a member-

ship of over 100 businesses.

We wish you the best in your endeavors and look forward to working with you on the board next year.

*From the 2005 Officers and Board of Directors*

## 2006 NEBA Officers and Directors

Don't miss the January 10th, 2006 meeting, when NEBA members will vote on the following proposed slate:

### **Officers:**

President- Nancy Burns  
President Elect- Rich Blankenship  
Secretary- Kurt Tellers  
Treasurer- Barbara Clements

### **Directors:**

Scott Hunt  
Ted Thomas  
Peggy Munroe  
Jim Ashlock  
Jerrell Lowery  
Bill Moore  
Carolyn Pippenger  
Mark Trafton  
Maureen Thompson- Past President

# 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**

**December 13- Holiday Party- 6:00pm- Ted Thomas residence- 1469 Vieux Carre Dr.**

**January 10- Robert Lisson, occupational therapist-Ergonomics-improving your office environment**

**February 14- Patrick Dorsey- Tallahassee Democrat**

## "Tips" from page 2

- Greet customers as they enter your store making direct eye contact. This serves two purposes. It improves customer relations. More importantly, it sends a message to any person entering the store that they have been recognized.
- Keep the facility well lit.
- Develop a cash control program.
- Inform employees not to accept large bills during transactions.
- Make bank deposits on a routine basis utilizing either an armored car service or, if this is not feasible, vary routes to the bank and times of deposit. Take a second person along whenever possible.
- If an alarm system is in use, clearly post a warning on the outside door of the facility.
- Remain alert and watchful for suspicious activity.
- Keep side and back doors locked to prevent undetected entry. The person in charge of the facility should have the only keys to these doors.
- Take precautions during opening and closing of the facility.

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