



# NEBA News

January- February 2007

## Welcome Message From The NEBA President

**by: Rich Blankenship**

Best wishes to each of you for a happy and prosperous 2007! NEBA launches the new year committed to continuing as an active voice for small businesses regarding issues affecting our community. At minimum, we look forward to seeing you at our regular monthly lunch meetings the second Tuesday each month, 1:00 p.m. at Lucy Ho's restaurant located off Capital Circle NE. Stay tuned to e-mails and future newsletters for other involvement opportunities.

At the January 9th monthly meeting, the following slate of board members will be presented for membership approval. Please join me in welcoming new board members Cora Ann Chapman, Ben Graybar and Stephen Hogge. Many thanks to the

returning board members (and predecessors) who have done so much to make NEBA the vibrant organization it is today!

### Officers

**Rich Blankenship- President** (Blankenship & Poppell, CPA's)  
**Bill Moore-President Elect** (Tallahassee State Bank)  
**Nancy Burns- Past President and Website Chair** (Leon Co. Sheriff's Office)  
**Carolyn Pippenger- Secretary** (Signprinters)  
**Mark Trafton-Treasurer** (Armor Realty)

### Directors

**Peggy Munroe** (Mays-Munroe)  
**Jim Ashlock- Membership Chair**  
**Scott Hunt** (Hunt Insurance Group)  
**Jerrell Lowery** (State Farm Insurance)

**Kurt Tellers** (St. James Certified Property)

**Ted Thomas** (Thomas Appraisal & Realty)

**Maureen Thompson- Program Chair** (Media Options, Inc.)

**Cora Ann Chapman**

**Ben Graybar** (Tallahassee State Bank)

**Stephen Hogge**-(Attorney-legislative staff for the Florida House of Representatives)

With your support, this group will lead NEBA as it continues to advance these goals:

*\*To promote commerce in the NEBA community;*

*\*To develop advertising and promotional opportunities for NEBA members;*

*\*To promote trade among NEBA members and their employees;*

Please see "**PRESIDENT**" on page 2

The North East Business Association would like to wish all of our members a happy, healthy and prosperous 2007!

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## North East Business Association

### Officers

**Rich Blankenship-President**

Blankenship & Poppell LLC

**Bill Moore-President Elect**

Tallahassee State Bank

**Carolyn Pippenger-Secretary**

Sign Printers

**Mark Trafton-Treasurer**

Armor Realty

**Nancy Burns- Past President**

Leon County Sheriff's Office

### Board Directors

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**Scott Hunt**

Hunt Insurance Group

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Thomas Appraisals & Real Estate

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State Farm Insurance

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Media Options, Inc.

**Kurt Tellers**

St. James Certified Property Mngement

**Cora Ann Chapman**

**Ben Graybar**

Tallahassee State Bank

**Stephen Hogge**

Attorney- Florida House of Representatives

## 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: burns@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

**"PRESIDENT"** from front page

*\*To create a special image and entity in our trade areas;*

*\*To advance our business interests with local and state governments;*

*\*To provide timely, interesting and educational programs at our meetings.*

This year promises to be another busy year. Maureen Thompson has already lined up a number of very relevant speakers for our monthly lunch meetings. More than one NEBA member has commented that these speakers are often provocative. Accordingly, let's challenge ourselves to bring guests to these informative and interesting meetings. At minimum, the speakers' insights should be shared with others. What is more, we need more people to be aware of NEBA and what it stands for. Jim Ashlock will lead the effort to continue increasing NEBA membership beyond the current 100-plus level. That effort starts with making new and existing businesses aware of NEBA and the many ways we stand up for challenges that small businesses face in our community. Let's all commit to spreading that good word with others and inviting them to join and support NEBA. Feel free to use the *new* NEBA website as an information source for that. The new website address is: [www.nebusiness.org](http://www.nebusiness.org). (It should be on-line in the next month) We are very thankful for the work of Nancy Burns, Peggy

Munroe and others to set up the new website and make it an appealing, key information and communication vehicle. (Did I mention this is a new website?)

I am honored to serve as President of this great organization as it continues to make a real difference in this community. Kudos to past NEBA leaders and members for positioning us so well for the new year. I look forward to working with all of you. Please feel free to contact me or any of the NEBA board members with questions, ideas or suggestions you may have concerning NEBA or NEBA-related issues.

## Job Well Done

The North East Business Association sends our deepest appreciation to outgoing Board Member Barbara Clements for her contributions and service to the NEBA. Best of luck to you in your future endeavors.

## Correction

Stephen Hogge reports that property tax reduction implemented as a result of NEBA and other concerned citizens' efforts actually resulted in \$8.1 million in savings to property owners – not \$1.8 million as reported in the November/December NEBA News.

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# Thanks For The Toys!



The NEBA Board would like to take a moment to thank all of you who contributed toys during the NEBA Holiday party on December 12th. 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 message

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 Mike from Another Broken Egg restaurant. The food was delicious as always. We hope everyone had a joyful holiday season.



l-r: Jerrell Lowery, Nancy Burns, Rich Blankenship, Maureen Thompson, Carolyn Pippenger, Ben Graybar, Kurt Tellers, Mark Trafton



Ted Thomas and Nancy Burns



Peggy Munroe, Ray Munroe, Mike Schmidt, Maureen Thompson



David Hinton, Art Jusko, Liz Jusko, Kurt Tellers, Sharon Tellers



Dorothy Vodicka, Ben Graybar, Jim Ayers, Don Vodicka



Greg Harris, Mark Trafton, Ashley Trafton, Hank Rosen



Rich Blankenship, Karen Blankenship, Jerrell Lowery, Janice Lowery

# 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**

**January 9-** Robin Safley- co-host of "The Usual Suspects" talk show

**February 13-** Randy Hanna- Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce Chair

**March 13-** Ed Depuy- Leon County Commissioner and Board Chair

## 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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