

NEBA News

www.NEbusiness.org

July-August 2009

Associated Industries Chief Reviews 2009 Session For NEBA

by: **Jim Ashlock**

Wins and losses for private enterprise were outlined for NEBA at its May luncheon by Barney Bishop, president and CEO of Associated Industries of Florida, the state's leading business advocacy organization.

Bishop led off with an attack on the "radical left" that persists in opposing oil/gas exploration off Florida's coast. Surveys show that over 59 percent of Floridians favor such development to ease the state's financial problems. But a vocal minority continues to block the issue. He did compliment Rep. Michelle Rehwinkle Vasilinda of the Leon County delegation for supporting offshore exploration and "for suffering the slings and arrows" her support attracted.

He said workers compensation was AIF's top priority this session. With its team of 20 lobbyists, AIF won changes in lawyer compensation fees that resulted in \$2.9 billion in fee savings to Florida businesses.

Compromises were necessary

on another priority, maintaining the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund. While no major financial



From l to r- Virginia Glass, Rebecca Hale and Barney Bishop

savings were attained on this front, AIF was able to block the provision whereby people could receive unemployment compensation even if they left the job voluntarily.

AIF was able to defeat legislation that would have taxed business done outside Florida. Additionally, it fought to keep corporate records with the Secretary of State and away from the Department of Revenue, which sought jurisdiction over such records evidently as a means of boosting corporate tax collections.

Bishop had few kind words for Gov. Charlie Crist, who in AIF's opinion is no friend of the business

community.

"We gave him \$200,000 for his campaign because we thought he was a good Republican," Bishop said. "Turns out I'm a better Republican than he is, and I'm a registered Democrat."

He urged the NEBA audience to vote for Crist in his bid for the U.S. Senate because "we want to get him the hell out of Florida." Bishop predicts that Crist in the Senate would vote regularly with Sen. Bill Nelson, whose record for business support is "Zero." Nelson is sponsoring the "card check" bill that would allow unions to organize any company with 10 or more employees without a secret ballot.

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NEBA News

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

Help May Be On The Way

by: Ted Thomas

The County Commission recently met to discuss the 2009-2010 budget. Believe it or not, after learning from Leon County Property Appraiser Bert Harstfield that the assessed value throughout the county will be one billion dollars less than last year, they agreed to not increase the millage rate.

This should mean that property taxes on second homes and business property should be reduced. This is the first of many workshops and public hearings, so don't relax your involvement in this issue. Call your County Commissioner and say thank you for

their position.

In addition, the County Commission unanimously voted 7-0 to consolidate the Leon County Growth Management Department with the City of Tallahassee Growth Management Department. We all hope the city will take similar action. Let's call the Mayor and push for this merger.

A closing thought. I was recently moved by this quote by James Freeman Clarke. "A politician thinks of the next election, a statesman, of the next generation." We all need to apply this thought when deciding on our candidates in the next election.

"BISHOP" from front page

"At Tallahassee Community College, 70% signed cards authorizing an election, yet only 30% voted for the union," Bishop noted. "Under Nelson's bill, TCC would be unionized today simply on the basis of those signed cards."

As in earlier talks, Bishop bemoaned the status of Citizens Insurance, which faces a potential \$485 billion hurricane disaster risk

with only \$2.7 billion available, which means it could not cover even one percent of potential losses.

The situation is no better for the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (CAT fund), which Bishop contends is likewise incapable to covering potential losses.

"Insurance rates in Florida keep going up because losses keep rising," he said. "If we can find some way to mitigate the losses, the rates should come down," he said.

NEBA NEWS

NORTH EAST BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

FEBRUARY 28, 1992

VOLUME 1, NO. 1

WHAT IS NEBA?

By PEGGY MUNROE

The Northeast Business Association is a diverse group of business people (including retailers, professionals and restaurateurs) who have united for the common good of those businesses located in the Capital Circle area between Mahan and Thomasville Road. Our main objective is to offset the negative media reports about traffic flow during construction. We advertise together, we patronize each other and we're building new friendships.

Although we have made progress with media cooperation (the Tallahassee Democrat, Sunny 107, Fox 49, and Current are all working with us) there is still much we can accomplish. We all must use our media negotiating skills to persuade all radio and TV stations with which we do business to help the association by running our Public Service Announcements and being sensitive to negative comments about our traffic problems. Mitchell

Brothers Construction has done a good job of keeping two lanes of traffic moving and we must continue to get that message across to the public! It is absolutely imperative that we stand united on this issue!

At our meetings we are presenting Yogi Bess programs. You know, those that make us smarter than the average bear! Bill Wages, the project engineer for Capital Circle, and his assistant, Kim Ackenhansen, along with a DOT public relations man from Chipley came in our February meeting. They told us what we could expect during construction and answered a number of questions. Our March 5 meeting will be held at the Democrat building so they can present a Belden report. If you have never seen one of these reports you must make this meeting. Knowing the demographics of this area may very well make you smarter than those bears with whom you compete!

WITH ALL OF US WORKING TOGETHER WE ARE GOING TO MAKE THE CIRCLE THE PREMIER SPOT FOR BUSINESS IN TALLAHASSEE.

NEBA MEMBERS INVITED TO DEMOCRAT

NEBA members and businesses located on Capital Circle NE are invited to attend a special meeting presented by the Tallahassee Democrat. The next meeting scheduled for Thursday March 5, 1992 will be held at the Tallahassee Democrat building on Magnolia Drive. A special presentation by the staff of the Tallahassee Democrat will review the latest Belden report. This report concentrates on buying habits and demographics as well as all the business data for Tallahassee and Leon county. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm and should prove to be most informative, so please don't be late!

RSVP-ASAPI

RSVP! Please will furnish personal copy Report to all RSVP. So, Please call 1 2224.

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After almost 18 years, the NEBA message is still strong and has the same intentions it had when NEBA was originated.

As you can see from the copies of one of the original newsletters from February 1992 (originally created by member David Hinton),

we are still a voice for businesses throughout Leon County, not just the NE section as NEBA was originally created for back then.

We urge you to stand with us and become involved as a member to support our mission.

We welcome all businesses.

LET GEORGE DO IT

By JIM NORMAN

It's time to put your two cents worth in.

There are some people who sit on life's sidelines and do nothing; they contribute nothing, their lives account for nothing. They were born in inertia and then had a relapse. They don't even burn the candle at one end. Then there are people who think life is a spectator's game—they just want to watch things happen. All we can say about them is they were born in the subjective case and have been walking around in a subjective mood ever since. Then we have great people like the members of NEBA. People who are dedicated and involved in their families, their businesses, and their communities. Is it easy you ask? No it is not! If it was easy everyone would be doing it. Only a few seem to have that special quality that causes them to care enough to make a contribution.

The North East Business Association (NEBA) was born October 30, 1991. The birth was a result of people getting involved. Getting involved has resulted in bringing good business leaders together to

work for the common good of all the businesses on Capital Circle NE. But now the time has come for more folks to be involved. The work that lies ahead cannot be accomplished by the small group that has brought it this far. We need the participation of all the business leaders on The Circle.

Investing some time in our association is an investment in yourself. Don't stand by the revolving door of life hoping to go through on some body else's push. We need everyone's help now to make this organization have the political clout necessary to cause the changes and effect the yet to be made decisions that will affect the future of this community. The attitude of "Let George do it" places our future in the hands of strangers. Let's not let George do it, get involved and make your contribution to our association.

MEETINGS

NEBA's regular meeting is the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. As we have no regular meeting place you can call any member to determine where the next meeting will be held. To join please contact Greg Cochran at 385-7444. Membership dues are \$100.00.

OUR OFFICERS

Jim Norman, President
Scales & Tails Restaurant
385-9992

Hugh Davis, Vice President
Davis Trophies
Glasshopper
656-6000

Peggy Manroe, Secretary
Mays Manroe
The Sleep Center
385-9495

Eros Kerr, Treasurer
Custom Care Cleaners
385-1473

Lynn Wolfshlager, Director
The Carpet Shop
Oakfield Interiors
386-7139

OUR GOALS

Encourage and aid customer access during the road widening

Develop advertising and promotional opportunities for our members.

Promote trade among our members and their employers.

Advance our interest with local and state government.

Create a special image and identity for our trade area.

Improve area landscaping and aesthetics.

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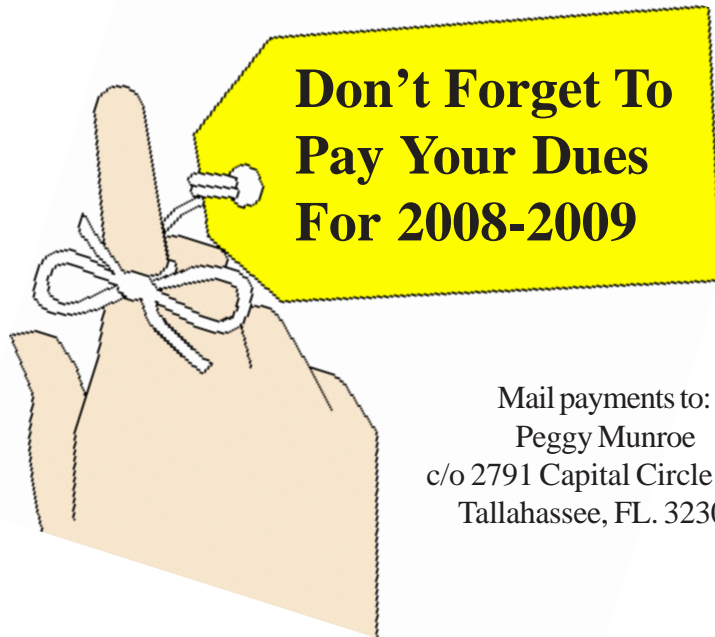
Calendar

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

July 14- Stephen Stewart- The Tallahassee Reporter- will update city issues

August 11- Secretary Walt McNeil- Department of Corrections

Time to Renew...



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