



# NEBA News

www.NEbusiness.org

November-December 2009

## NEBA Hears Batt And Herman At The September Meeting

by: **Jim Ashlock**

A good crowd assembled at Sept. 8 NEBA's new meeting site, Cabell's American Grill, to hear talks about Florida's energy outlook and local taxation concerns.

David Batt, director of the Consumer Energy Alliance of Florida, explained why the Gulf of Mexico off Florida should be opened for oil and natural gas development.

He explained that Florida is rejecting \$7 to \$15 billion a year in royalty payments by its continuous ban on exploration off its shores.

"There are tremendous reserves out there that we're not being allowed to access," Batt said. "Gas from the Destin Dome alone (offshore from Destin, FL) would take care of demand by a city like Tallahassee for 70 years."

He cited polls that indicate a growing majority of Floridians support offshore drilling. But that our representatives in Washington, teaming with environmentalists, persist in blocking such development.

Batt stressed that oil and gas proponents do not oppose the continued quest for alternative energy sources, such as solar, wind



*l-r- Penny Herman, David Batt and J. Layne Smith*

and thermal. He admitted there will be a need for such sources in the future, but that we can't rely on them in the foreseeable term.

"We're going to need oil and natural gas for at least another 70 years to meet our growing energy demand," he said.

Perhaps our greatest threat is our reliance upon foreign sources for oil, he said. That's why we need to development as much domestic supply as possible.

"If we continue to rely on sources from countries that aren't all that

friendly to us, we can get into major trouble," he said, recalling the mess caused by the Arab oil embargo of the 1970s. "This is a major national security issue."

Modern technology makes offshore development safe from spills and other pollution, Batt emphasized. Cutoff valves halt all flow in emergencies, and even the equipment on developed wells is under water invisible from the surface. As for interference with military training areas – a major problem cited by politicians – Batt said boundaries can easily be established for military operations. He added that if any organization needed assurance of adequate fuel supply, it is the U.S. military.

He urged the audience to let federal regulators know the need to open the Gulf to further energy

Please see "MEETING" on page 4

### *Inside this issue...*

*President's Message.....page 2*

*NEBA's Birthday.....page 3*

*Calendar.....page 4*

**North East Business  
Association  
Officers**

**Ted Thomas-President**  
Thomas Mitchell Realty  
**Scott Hunt-President Elect**  
Hunt Insurance Group  
**Carolyn Pippenger-Secretary**  
Sign Printers  
**Mark Trafton-Treasurer**  
Armor Realty  
**Bill Moore--Past President**  
Tallahassee State Bank

**Board Directors**

**Jim Ashlock**  
**Rich Blankenship- Past President**  
Richard E. Blankenship, CPA  
**Nancy Burns**  
Leon County Sheriff's Office  
**Cora Ann Chapman**  
**Ben Graybar**  
Tallahassee State Bank  
**Stephen Hogge-Attorney- Florida**  
House of Representatives  
**Jerrell Lowery**  
State Farm Insurance  
**Peggy Munroe**  
Mays-Munroe  
**Tom Napier**  
Probank  
**Bruce Screws**  
Bill's Signs  
**Maureen Thompson**  
Media Options, Inc.

**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

# President's Farewell Message

**by: Ted Thomas**

As outgoing President, I was asked to write an article summarizing events of the last year. I will deviate a little from that idea.

2009 was a great year for NEBA. We increased our paid membership to over 140 and the number continues to climb. The 18th Birthday Celebration was a smashing success attended by the largest number of members since last year's candidate forums. Cabell's American Grill did an outstanding job on the buffet and the homemade birthday cake was superb.

Now for the deviation. The NEBA newsletter has been one of the great strengths of our organization. It was resurrected from the depth of oblivion in 2002 and was handed off to Nancy Burns to organize, produce and distribute every 2 months. Outstanding does not describe her hard work and dedication to NEBA. This issue is dedicated to her for a job better than well done. Beginning in 2010 the newsletter will have a new editor and a standard of excellence that will be hard to meet.

Deviation #2. In the past, we have collected for Toys For Tots at our annual holiday party. This year, we will be collecting items for our troops overseas. We are asking that our members donate personal items which are for health/hygiene, food and leisure items (see bottom of page). You may donate up to \$25.

If you will be unable to attend the holiday party, you may drop off you donation at Mays-Munroe or Pro bank on North Monroe. NEBA will pay for the shipping. Bruce Screws from Bill's Signs will be coordinating the shipment to the soldiers from Tallahassee or the State of Florida. We hope all 140 members will participate in this worthy cause.

Thanks to all of you for the pleasure of serving the NEBA members this past year. Have a great holiday season. Have a great holiday season!



**NEBA President Ted Thomas would like to invite all NEBA members to our annual holiday party on December 8, from 6 - 8 P.M. The holiday party is in lieu of our monthly luncheon meeting and will be held at Bill Moore's house 332 Desoto Street.**

## Items for Soldiers

**Health and Hygiene**

- Baby Wipes
  - Eye Drops
  - Toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss
  - Vitamins
  - Feminine Hygiene items
  - Razors
  - Foot Powder
  - Gold Bond powder
- Please see "ITEMS" page 3

# Happy Birthday NEBA!

Here are some pictures from the meeting on October 13th when we celebrated NEBA's birthday. We had many members attend (over 60) to help us celebrate. We also had several of our past presidents in attendance who also spoke to the group. A good time, great lunch and yummy cake was had by all!



## ***"ITEMS" from page 2***

Deodorant  
 Bug repellent (wipes, cream- no spray)  
 Sunscreen  
 Chapstick  
 Lotion  
 Shampoo and Conditioner  
 Body Wash  
 Soap  
 Baby Powder

### ***Food Items***

Drink mixes (Gatorade, Crystal light, etc.)  
 Beef jerky, Slim Jims, Twizzlers  
 Gum, hard candy, lollipops  
 Easy Mac & other microwavables  
 Ramen noodles  
 Popcorn  
 Sunflower seeds, pistachios

Trail mix  
 Instant Oatmeal  
 Coffee and Fixings  
 Protein shakes  
 Hot Cocoa Mix  
 Granola Bars, Power bars  
 Microwavable meals/soups

### ***Leisure Time (idle-homesick)***

Books, magazines  
 DVD's and VHS tapes: movies, series, etc.  
 Board games  
 electronic games  
 Batteries, AA and AAA  
 Puzzler books (i.e., sudoku, word search, crossword)  
 Playing cards/UNO/Phase 10  
 Trivia games  
 Music CD's  
 Xbox, Play Station, other video

systems/games

### ***Miscellaneous***

Notecard/Christmas cards for them to send home  
 Pens, stationary, envelopes  
 Thanksgiving/Christmas decorations  
 Zip-loc bags, Glad Press & Seal bags  
 Photos of your family, Tallahassee, etc.  
 Tools: Screwdrivers, drills, etc.  
 T-shirts, tan or white (med & lg)  
 Socks, black, or white, men & women  
 Warm gloves, black only  
 Knit caps, black only  
 Hand warmers

# Calendar

NEBA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at Cabell's American Grill  
2915 Kerry Forest Parkway  
from 1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.  
Cost is \$11.00 per person

**November 10-** Fla. Banking Association Executive Vice President Anthony DiMarco.

**December 8- Holiday party-** Bill Moore's Home- 332 Desoto Street- (Los Robles neighborhood) 6:00pm- Admission- a donation for a soldier.

**January 12-** Tallahassee Democrat

**February 9-** Adam Babington, Legislative Counsel for Florida Chamber of Commerce.

## "MEETING" from front page

development.

"If the American people don't let the Obama administration know we favor more development, it won't happen," he said.

Preceding Batt's remarks, Herman, local businesswoman and former Tallahassee City Commissioner, presented facts on the growth in city taxes in recent years and how spending by commissioners has escalated.

Now, she complained, the commission plans to increase property taxes to cover what, in her opinion, is an unnecessary deficit. As a result of her work, NEBA urged its members to oppose the tax increase at a Sept. 10 public hearing on the issue.

NEBA was well represented at the meeting by Ray and Peggy Munroe, Ted Thomas, Stephen Stewart, Bruce Screws and Debbie Kirkland, who opposed the tax increase as a handicap for local business already struggling in weak economy.

### Newsletter compliments of:

**Tallahassee Technology Group Inc**

**Xerox Authorized Sales Agent**

Richard Maus, President

Copiers \* Engineering Systems \* Printers \* Fax  
1949 Raymond Diehl Road, Suite B  
Tallahassee, Florida 32308  
850-385-1772 Phone  
850-385-0087 FAX  
850-524-3323 Mobile  
rich@tlhtech.com



### Website Content Updates By:

**CURTECH Computer Services, LLC**

[www.at-home-computer-support.com](http://www.at-home-computer-support.com)

850.980.2571

[Curt@CURTECHIT.com](mailto:Curt@CURTECHIT.com)



North East Business Association  
c/o 2791 Capital Circle N.E.  
Tallahassee, Fl. 32308