

NEBA NEWS

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Advocates

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NEBA Newsletter

Miranda Madden, Editor

NEBA News is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. Articles of interest are welcome, subject to review and space available. Submission deadline is the 25th day of the month prior to the month of publication; send articles, letters, photos or suggestions to:

newsletter@nebatallahassee.org



NEBA July Candidate Forum:

City Comm. Seat 3 Candidates:
 ◀ Steve Stewart & Nancy Miller
 School Board Dist. 1 Candidates:
 Forrest Van Camp & Alva Striplin ▶



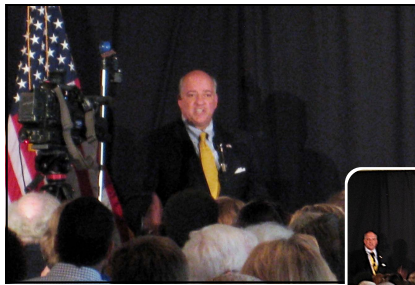
City Comm. Seat 2 Candidates:
 ◀ Curtis Richardson, ◀ David Riddle & ◀ Diana Oropallo



◀ NEBA August Speaker:
 Dr. Elmira Mangum, FAMU President



NEBA September Forum & Debate:
 Incumbent US Representative,
 ◀ Steve Southerland & Challenger, Gwen Graham ▶



REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Our NEBA membership continues to grow since my last report to you this summer. If you've been to any of our recent well attended luncheon meetings, then you have seen for yourself. Our monthly luncheon programs are a big part of NEBA's purposes; bringing timely, educational and informative speakers to our membership. In July we had a lively forum and debate with candidates for school board and city commission. In August we had the pleasure of hosting now newly installed President of the Florida A&M University, Dr. Elmira Mangum, who told us of her visions to enhance FAMU, an institution very important to our local community. At our September meeting we hosted the first one-on-one debate between Incumbent United States Representative Steve Southerland and Challenger Gwen Graham - the hottest congressional race in the country. We now video-record our major programs, so if you missed any, or want to watch again, they are available on our NEBA website.

The September program with Representative Southerland and Ms. Graham was a "learning experience" for NEBA. It was by far the biggest crowd we've ever had both in attendance by our members, visitors/guests, and as well with the Kiwanis Club, which graciously helped us in orchestrating the program so we could utilize the entire Capital City Country Club upstairs dining room. Kudos to Capital City Country Club for really stepping up to meet the demand of the over-capacity crowd we had; although we ran short of prime seating for everybody, there was enough fried chicken to go around! Though overcrowding at our meetings hasn't really been a problem before, the last few meetings and particularly the September meeting made us realize that we need to somewhat change how we do our luncheon programs to ensure that you, our valued NEBA members, get first priority in seating (and eating) at our meetings. Starting with our program in October, the Medical Marijuana Amendment debate between John Morgan and Sheriff John Rutherford, which we anticipate to be well attended, we will ask members to RSVP (RSVP@nebatallahassee.org) for the meeting and to also let us know how many guests/prospective members they would like to bring. We'll also be putting a limit on the number of casu-

al visitors/members of the public attending our programs, and will be designating "reserved" tables for NEBA members so that our members get first choice of seating in the dining room. Historically, we've encouraged members of the public to come out to our meetings both as a service to the community (because we put on programs that are of interest to the public) and also as a way to encourage new membership. As we saw at our last program, that can get out of hand. Though we're always looking for new members to join NEBA, and encourage you to solicit your friends and business colleagues to join, we are at a membership level now where we can be more reserved in promoting the organization.

If you haven't done so already, please check out our recently renovated website, www.nebatallahassee.org. You will now find information about our programs, videos of our meetings, and back issues of our newsletters. Even more useful content will be added soon. We are also developing a NEBA community calendar of events; if you have meeting announcements or the like that would interest the membership, please send them to info@nebatallahassee.org for posting on the website. Advertising opportunities are now available on the NEBA website and in the newsletter; please send inquiries to advertising@nebatallahassee.org. Also, please "Like" and "Follow" NEBA on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/nebatallahassee>, where you can also post items of interest and comment on NEBA programs and activities.

Thank you all for being a part of NEBA!

Terry Madigan, NEBA President, 2014

NEBA'S JULY MEETING: CANDIDATE FORUM

NEBA welcomed several local race candidates to a political forum, starting with School Board Candidates, Forrest Van Camp and Alva Striplin, debating "Common Core". Van Camp, with 46 years as an educator, stated this is "just a name change as it's still the same books and curriculum" while Striplin, a teacher at Deerlake, strongly contested with "we're given 'blah' and told to teach 'blah'." Similarly advocating for teachers regarding the state regulations, Van Camp disagreed with Striplin that "Common Core" is not destroying public education.

Up next were candidates for the City Commission Seat 3, Steve Stewart and Nancy Miller. As a 20 year local community business owner, Miller expressed her understanding of tough times for businesses and vowed to keep tax raises off for 4 years as well as increasing the staff in the City and Police Departments. In favor of incorporating a "Blueprint Standard" that includes green space with development, she also expressed her interest in establishing and maintaining a local business preference. Also in favor of local business preference, longtime NEBA member, Stewart, expressed his concern for public safety and that city leaders aren't being held accountable; specifically regarding budget allocations of \$500K annually to mow medians and an allotment for a brewpub, all while no funds are apportioned for more Police.

Candidates for the City Commission Seat 2, Curtis Richardson, David "Bubba" Riddle and Diana Oropallo, concluded this political forum. Long time Tallahassee resident and 20 year Correctional Officer, Riddle, focused on crime, stating: "No one wants to deal with credibility..." As a self-identified community servant bringing "representation of the average community member", Richardson promised to "educate the community on taxes and how it benefits the community long term" and to "KISS: keep it simple stupid." Claiming to bring a fresh perspective as she engages in her first run for political office, Oropallo stated that the "local community needs to work together, not in silos." Bringing the perspective of a working mom and community volunteer, she hopes to bring much needed new ideas to the City Commission that will ultimately increase the private job sector, local support for entrepreneurs, reduced crime, and overall economic vitality.

...and the voters have spoken - August 26 Primary: Alva Striplin won School Board; Nancy Miller won City Commission Seat 3; and Curtis Richardson won City Commission Seat 2.

NEBA'S AUGUST MEETING: DR. ELMIRA MANGUM, FAMU PRESIDENT

Longtime NEBA member, Jerrell Lowry, introduced Dr. Elmira Mangum, President of the Florida A&M University. Dr. Mangum has already made a profound community impact on local and national levels as the first woman president since FAMU's inception. With the 2014-15 enrollment exceeding projections, she proclaimed a new slogan "At FAMU great things are happening every day!" Dr. Mangum enthusiastically explained her goal to grow the university and enhance the community through several avenues: research and development, journalism, business development center/program, sustainability institute, and more. Eager for an international footprint, Dr. Mangum hopes to increase funding to continue building our foundation for FAMU and Tallahassee. With 30 million in research funding, FAMU has several programs including the Business Development center/program that will focus on working with existing and new, up and coming, businesses in the Leon County and surrounding areas. Currently

Monthly meeting information and newsletters available 24/7 at www.NEBATallahassee.org.



Current NEBA Members

Annette McGuffey, A Country Rose Florist & Gifts; Mark Raciappa, ActionCOACH; James Perry, Air Control Heating & Cooling; Chris Akins, Akins Campaign Strategy; Aletta Shutes, Aletta Shutes & Assoc.; Laurie Jemison, American Classifieds Thrifty Nickel; Andy Roberts, Arco Realty; Lance Norris, Arcpoint of Tallahassee; Samantha Hoffman & Mark Trafton IV, Realtor Armor Realty of Tallahassee; James R (Jim) Ashlock; Sam Varn, Awards4U; Anita Tuong, BB & T; Billy Van Landingham, BB&T-Landrum Yeager Insurance; Catherine Baer, Baer; Barney Bishop III, Barney Bishop Consulting LLC; Don Pumphrey, Bartlett Tree Experts; Jim Clarke, Batteries Plus Bulbs; Billy Beggs, Beggs Funeral Homes; Bert Bevis, Bert Bevis Realty, Inc.; R J (Rocky) Bevis, Bevis Funeral Home; Bill Reardon, Bill Reardon Insurance Agency, Inc; Bill Sittig, Bill Sittig, CPA, LLC; Bruce Screws, Bill's Signs; Eddie Boone; Tom Derzypolski, Bow Stern; Joe Boyd, Boyd, Durant & Slinger, PL; Brad Burns, Brad Burns Insurance; Doug Saunders, Brown & Brown; Gary Fogelman, Budget Blinds; Chris Risalvato, C & A Landscape; Michael Campbell, Campbell Executive Services; Jackye Beasley-Moore, Capital City Bank; Ron Goldstein, Capital City Pedicabs; Lynn Wolschlagler, Carpet One Floor & Home; Marshall Cassidy, Cassidy & Company; Matt Brown, Patricia Griffin & Kaila Hardee, Centennial Bank; Bill Chandler, Chandler Hospitality Sales; Steve Hourigan, Changing Times Realty Co; Cora Ann & Jack Chapman, Chapman Produce; Rick Minor, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office; Christopher Edwards, City of Tallahassee; Keith Bell, Clark Parlington Hart; Barbara Clements, Clements Financial Services, Inc.; Cassandra Harbin, Coldwell Banker Hartung & Noblin; Steve Stewart, Commercial Print & Copy; Millard Noblin, Community Property Mgt; Linda Hale, Cotton Top Creations; Eric Sweet, Daktronics, Inc.; Dan Vollmer, Realtor; Dave Lang; Charles Davis, Davis; Brian Desloge, Desloge Home Oxygen & Medical Equipment; Kristian Dunn, Dunn & Miller, PA; Linda & Bob Dodson; Dottie McPherson; Will Croley, Doug Croley Insurance; Doug Croley, Douglas M Croley, Inc; Randall Cothren, Eagle Cleaners; Will Messer, Earl Bacon Agency; Jake Gillikin, Electronet; Howard Eisenman, Enhanced Financial Services; Eric Williams, Esposito Gardening; Marty Roberts, Farm Bureau Insurance; Don May, Farmers and Merchants Bank; Brett Bosarge, Fidelity Bank Mortgage; David Hinton, FIGA; Dave Fiore, Fiore Communications; Sherwood Brown, First Commerce Credit Union; Joanie Trotman, FL Assoc. & Property Mgt.; David Harvey, FL Sheriff's Risk Mgt. Fund; Jim Koberger, Florida Farm Bureau Insurance; James Hosman, Florida First Capital Finance Corp; Tom Napier, Florida Osteopathic Medical Assoc.; Sandra Tate, Fonville, Lewis, Foote & Messer; Bob Franklin, Franklin Employee Solutions; Emily Fritz; Art Jusko, Fun Station; Guy Moore, Garnet & Gold; Kelly Miller, Get Dirty Corp DBA Junk King; Angie Pichard, Goodwin-Pichard Investigation Agency; Sue Dick, Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce; Rebecca Hale; Irene Haley, Haley Retired; Phil Swartz, Holiday Cruises & Tours; Jenny Wells, Imagine That; Gary Stout, Ingram Enterprises; Ben Wilcox, Integrity Florida; Cindy Lavoie, Interim Health Care; Erwin Jackson, Jackson Properties & Financial Services; Jan Soto, Jan Soto Realty; Jerrell Lowery, Jerrell Lowery State Farm Insurance; Anthony Gaudio, John D. Harvard, CPA; Bon Clarke,

Keller Williams Realty; Ken Walton, Ken Walton & Assoc; Gail Moble-Loveless, Ketcham Realty Group; Kevin & Kathleen Kelly, Kevin's Guns & Sporting Goods; Cliff Loughmiller, KLL Contracting, Inc.; Ray McCallister, Jr, L. Ray McCallister, Jr, CPA; Casey Lauer, Lauer Real Estate Group; Allen Turnage, Law Office of Allen Turnage; Jo Ellen Christy, Legacy Insurance Solutions; Bert Hartsfield, Leon County Property Appraiser; Sheriff Larry Campbell & Michael Wood, Leon County Sheriff's Office; Kirk Headley-Perdue, Linkages; Meghan Kelly, Lisa Miller & Assoc.; Lew Wilson, Local Senior Discounts.com; Laura Coloros, Mac Business Systems; Terry Madigan, Madigan Law Firm; Greg S Marr, Esq; Deanna Mims, MarketDone; Peggy Munroe, Mays-Munroe; Grover McKee, McKee, Grover Insurance; Maureen Thompson, Media Options; Will Haley, Media Productions; Park Adams, MFM Sales; Mike Vasalinda, Mike Vasalinda Productions; Mike Lample, Mike's Jewelry Care Center LLC; Dewitt Miller, Miller Glass Co; Dean Minardi, Minardi Investments; Curtis Baynes, MyersPark Lane LLC; Nic Gavalas, Nic's Toggery; Rod Vaughn, North Florida Agents Network, Inc; John Curry & Hugh Tomlinson, North Florida Financial; Cheryl Gratt, Office Pro of Tallahassee; Bill Oliver, Oliver Renovation & Construction, Inc; Bill Wert, Orkin Pest Control; Brian Boulware, Palmetto Security Service; Jenny Farrah, Pathway Wellness; Matt Willard, Patriotic Partners of N Florida; Matt Miley, PayOut USA, Inc; Mary Stafford, Prime Meridian Bank; Mike Ferrie, Prime South Properties; F James Wylie, Professional Consultant, LLC; Neal & Robert Bradford, Quality Carpet Care; Tom Crabb, Radey Law Firm; Charles & Mary Rooney, Rainey Cawthon Distributor; Charlie Elder, Ray Gordon Brake Service; Rick Oppenheim, RB Oppenheim Assoc; Reggie Garcia, PA; Gary & Geoff Sprague, Regional Property Services; Christopher Mills, Regions Bank; Rich Blankenship, Richard E Blankenship CPA; Anna Johnson Riedel, Riedel & Associates; Bill Gunter, Rogers, Gunter, Vaughn Ins.; Mark Ryan, Sanders, Holloway & Ryan PA; Tom Horner, ServPro of Tallahassee; Shannon Stoutamire, CPA; Shawnta Friday-Stroud; Carolyn Pippenger, Sign Printers; Steve Beasley, South Georgia Brick Company; Everitt Drew, Southgroup; Jay Bostwick, Sperry & Assoc; Ray Burke, Spray Wash Exterior Cleaning; Tom Chambaasian, Sunshine Car Care DBA SuperLube; Michele Lynch, Sunshine Savings Bank; Randy Martin, SureGrip Floor Safety Solutions; Paul Michael, Tailored Financial Solutions; Steven Loucheim, Tallahassee Board of Realtors; Lewis Buford, Tallahassee Land, Co.; Ben Graybar & Bill Moore, Tallahassee State Bank; Susan Fairbrother & Jackie Wilson, Tallahassee Technology Group Inc/Xerox; Jackie Wilson, Tallahassee Technology Group, Inc.; Ted Nation; Dianne Berryhill, The Berryhill Group; Tim Edmund, The Edmund Group, LLC; Mike Schmidt, The Egg Café and Eatery; Drs. Dean & Hamilton, The Focal Pointe; Don Vodicka, The Gem Collection; Mike Campbell, The Jim Moran Institute for Global; Ted Thomas, Thomas Mitchell Realty; Matt Ryan, Timberlane Appraisal Assoc.; Harry Bosman, UPS Store 6044; Richard Yood, Vernon Graphics & Promotions; Vic Aderhold, Vic Aderhold Concepts, LLC; Heather Johnson, Voxy Media Group; Alan Null, Waddell & Reed Inc; Heather Peeples, WCTV-TV; John Mackie, Wells Fargo Advisors; Jennifer Benners, Whites Plumbing; Pete Williams, Esq; Scott Hunt, Willis / Hunt Insurance Group, LLC; Barry Kaye,

FAMU has 38 products/patents ranging from Majesty grapes to anti-aging cream developed from the byproducts. Beginning September 2015, the FAMU Journalism and BTNC partnership will produce 200+ jobs and have a \$34 million dollar impact on our local community. Investments by Sony and other sponsors are going into a state-of-the-art network facility, headquartered on FAMU campus, rivaling CNN; 24/7 news network for the black community with a set pace and open door. In addition, Dr. Mangum hopes to expand the current online degree options to also include undergraduate degrees.

NEBA's SEPTEMBER MEETING: CONGRESSIONAL FORUM & DEBATE

Incumbent US Representative, Steve Southerland and challenger, Gwen Graham, candidates for the US Congress 2nd Congressional District of Florida, engaged in intense political banter throughout the multi-topic discussions chosen by NEBA membership. Hot topics included:

Obama Care - how would you make it work better? Southerland voted to repeal, suggesting the decision making be put into the hands of the people, not carriers. Graham claimed the Democrats bit off more than they can chew while Republicans chose to put the responsibility back on the carriers, but with no additional taxes and a hard look at employer mandates, she would work to change laws needed to make it work.

Raise minimum wage? Southerland vows to work with small business owners to voluntarily increase wages for all Americans. Graham's concern is to keep people above the poverty line by supporting mandatory incremental increases to wages.

What is your stand on violence against women? Southerland supports a bill to protect women, not to be used as a political ploy; he proclaimed "I won't let a woman be a pawn in Washington D.C." Graham countered with "half-truths are not truths" and the fact that Southerland did not vote for the bill in law today.

What is your stand on children immigration? Southerland suggests sealing the border as it is the "right thing to do" and having a bipartisan opportunity to discuss the 2006 Border Security Act as it is not being enforced. While it breaks Graham's heart to see these children, she also feels it's best to secure our border and engage in a discussion on immigration reform. While she's not in support of amnesty, this issue is critical to the US economy.

US Budget: continuing resolution through December - What is your stance? Supporting his past proclamations, Southerland said he will not vote to raise the debt ceiling without reform; No Budget, No Pay. Graham declared she would vote to raise the debt ceiling as there's "way too much US spending to drive down the deficit. We need to get our priorities in line!"

NEBA Political Action Committee Update

By Barney Bishop

The NEBA Political Action Committee (NEBA-PAC) Board of Trustees met again at the end of September and along with adding two new Trustees to the board, we discussed at length using the name "NEBA" in the PAC name. It was unanimously decided that the BOT would recommend to the NEBA Board of Directors they consider setting aside time at a future general membership meeting for a discussion and a vote on the use of the NEBA name for the PAC.

The NEBA-PAC Board of Trustees have gone to great lengths to insure that NEBA-PAC will always reflect the consensus of the NEBA membership on matters such as candidate or issue support and advocacy. We have established many guidelines for operational purposes but some of the most important ones are that NEBA-PAC Trustees must be dues paying members of NEBA; if NEBA PAC endorses a candidate, it may only endorse the winner of the Straw Ballot results from a general NEBA membership meeting, unless the BOT votes unanimously for another candidate; NEBA PAC will endorse no candidate(s) in a race before NEBA has a speaker or panel discussion (if NEBA has no speaker or panel discussion, then NEBA-PAC is free to endorse in that race); NEBA-PAC understands that if it does use "NEBA" as a part of its name, it is only with the consent of the NEBA Board of Directors, which may be withdrawn at any time if the NEBA BOD believes that NEBA-PAC is not following the will of the NEBA membership.

NEBA PAC's membership levels are: *Friend* of NEBA PAC: \$1 - 49 annually; *Member* of NEBA PAC: \$50 - 99 annually; *Trustee* of NEBA PAC: \$100 or more annually (Trustees are members of the board and have voting rights on endorsements.) NEBA-PAC's list of contributors continues to grow, and we are meeting periodically to develop further guidelines. We have also arranged telephone conferencing so Trustees that can't attend in person may participate by phone. If you're interested in joining NEBA-PAC, at any membership level, please call Barney Bishop at 907-3436.

Monthly meeting information and newsletters available 24/7 at www.NEBATallahassee.org.



NEBA'S MISSION STATEMENT

NEBA is a diverse group of business professionals who are committed to enhancing Tallahassee's business climate by advocating the interests of local business with government. Since 1991, we have promoted commerce through networking, monitoring government and informing and educating our members.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Samantha Hoffman, Armor Realty of Tallahassee; Eddie Boone; Tom Derzypolski, Bow Stern; Anita Tuong, BB & T; Linda Hale, Cotton Top Creations; Linda and Bob Dodson; Brett Bosarge, Fidelity Bank Mortgage; Dave Fiore, Fiore Communications; Joanie Trotman, FL Assoc. & Property Mgt.; Angie Pichard, Goodwin-Pichard Investigation Agency; Ben Wilcox, Integrity Florida; Cindy Lavoie, Interim Health Care; Anthony Gaudio, John D. Harvard, CPA; Cheryl Gratt, Office Pro of Tallahassee; Jenny Farrah, Pathway Wellness; Reggie Garcia, PA; Paul Michael, Tailored Financial Solutions; Dianne Berryhill, The Berryhill Group; Heather Johnson, Voxy Media Group



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Certified Public Accountants & Business Advisors

CALENDAR

NEBA meetings are held on the
4th Tuesday of each month from
12:00pm - 1:00pm. Food line
opens at 11:30am, \$15 per
member, \$20 per guest, cash
or check preferred.

Capital City Country Club
1601 Golf Terrace Drive

Oct. 28 (RSVP required) - Medical
Marijuana Debate: Attorney John
Morgan & Duval Co. Sheriff John
Rutherford

Nov. 25 - Jerome Gaines, Tallahassee
Fire Chief

**guest speakers subject to change without notice*

NEBA Christmas Party
Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. -
The Egg Café & Eatery
3740 Austin Davis Ave.

commercial
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- Booklets
- Brochures
- Lamination
- ... and much more!

To receive email notices for NEBA meetings, please contact NEBA at info@nebatallahassee.org



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& Business Advocates**

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