

NEBA NEWS

NETWORK OF ENTREPRENEURS & BUSINESS ADVOCATES

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NEBA Newsletter

Producer: Miranda Madden
**Editors: Maureen
Thompson & Nancy Burns**

NEBA News is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. Articles of interest are welcome. Publication of submitted materials is subject to review and space available. Article submission deadline is the 25th day of the month prior to the month of publication. Send articles, letters, photos or suggestions to NEBA News at the following email address:

lovingher7881@yahoo.com

2014 NEBA Board



*Back left to right: Mike Frieder, Mark Raciappa, Kristian Dunn, Mike Schmidt, Burt Bevis, Maureen Thompson, Barney Bishop, Ted Thomas
Front left to right: Nancy Burns, Terry Madigan, Peggy Munroe, Cora Ann Chapman, Michelle Lynch*

NEBA's Beginning

Written by Peggy Munroe

In 1991, Capital Circle NE was being widened and what a mess it was! It was going from 2 lanes to 3 and none too soon. Only 1 side at a time was being done, and for those who were on the side that was being worked on, it was a disaster. Customers trying to get to us were getting stuck in the mud, but, worse yet, the DOT was sending out fliers telling everyone that " Captain Asphalt" (how corny can you get?) was suggesting they stay off Capital Circle NE for the duration of the construction. Jim Norman of Scales & Tails sent out invitations to businesses up and down the circle to meet and figure out how we could deal with this problem. As a result NEBA (the North East Business Association) had its first meeting on October 21, 1991. Officers elected were Jim Norman, president, Hugh Davis, vice-president, Enos Kerr, treasurer, Peggy Munroe, secretary and Lynn Wollschlager, our only director. Our first newsletter was published on February 28, 1992. (We still have all of our newsletters.)

We quickly formed a group to address the construction problems. The project engineer from Chipley was invited to our next meeting and got an earful! We got the phone numbers of the Mitchell Brothers' supervisors and knew whom to call for help if a customer was stuck in the mud at 6 PM. We thanked them and praised them and somehow, most of us survived. We then began to focus on ways to promote business. We advertised together. We promoted trade with each other. The Tallahassee Democrat hosted meetings to review buying habits and demographics. We brought in various professionals to advise us.

Our name has changed (although we kept the old acronym of NEBA) to Network of Entrepreneurs and Business Advocates to reflect that we do not just represent the Northeast anymore. Our goals are still the same. After all, what we have been doing has worked for 23 years.

We have come a long way! More history and success stories to come.

NEBA'S MISSION

To enhance Tallahassee's business climate by advancing the interests of small business owners with state and local government officials and to promote local commerce through networking with other business owners and education of our members.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Matt Brown, Centennial Bank; Keith Bell, Clark Partington Hart; Christopher Edwards, City of Tallahassee; Dottie McPherson; David Harvey, FSRMF; Bon Clarke, Keller Williams Realty; Rod Vaughn, North Florida Agents Network, Inc; Harry Bosman, UPS Store



~PRESIDENT'S CORNER~

Tallahassee's Network of Entrepreneurs & Business Advocates

Fellow NEBA Members:

This spring, NEBA surpassed the 200 business-members mark! This is the largest the organization has ever been; our regular luncheon meeting attendance is also at record levels. This is a good sign that small business in the Tallahassee area is picking up and that our entrepreneurs and business advocates are actively networking to grow their businesses, keep up with issues of business interest, and also want to stay abreast of the goings-on of local government and politics. This is what NEBA is all about!

Our NEBA luncheon programs continue to stay up with current events of interest to our members. At our recent June meeting we had a thoughtful presentation, including a lively question and answer session, with local consultant, political advisor, entrepreneur and former county commissioner Gary Yordon. The current local elections scene and political ongoings were well covered, along with some gratis advice to those now seeking or considering public office. In May, we had Jim Murdaugh, President of Tallahassee Community College, who has kept that institution tightly connected to the local business community and in the news with new educational initiatives that impact our local economy. Our July 22 luncheon meeting will feature a panel debate of the various contestants for the city commission races, school board and possibly others. It might be an overtime meeting, but it may be the best opportunity for many of our members to hear the candidates for key local races, some of which will be decided as early as August - it will be a quick campaign season so plan to attend and get better informed about our potential elected officials. In August we will have the new Florida A&M President, Elmira Magnum, visit with us. In September we will host a debate with our U.S. Representative Steve Southerland and challenger Gwen Graham. October will feature John Morgan and one of our Florida Sheriffs jousting over Amendment 2, the Medical Marijuana issue. November is TBD and in December we will have our annual Christmas party- always good with ample food and drink and casual conversation and networking - free for our members and their guests.

Please remember to keep up with NEBA and related matters of interest on our web site, www.nebatallahassee.org. We are looking to very soon do an overhaul of that site, which has been provided to us courtesy of NEBA member Mike Frieder of On Call Computer Solutions, LLC., to really make it a "go to" source for information and calendars of events not only of NEBA meetings, but of the many other civic, governmental, political and business organizations, etc. in the community. NEBA is often times asked to disseminate pertinent information about other activities in the community of potential interest to our members; we generally don't forward all such announcements to our members, though we do encourage members to share brief items of interest at our meetings; our upgraded web site will allow the posting of such announcements. We'll also have opportunities for member advertising, business information exchange, blogs, more pictures and videos from our meeting or links to other items of interest and the like. We'll have NEBA newsletters, items of general NEBA business historical interest, and streaming audio/video replays of our programs (if you missed Gary Yordon or want to go back and listen to parts of his presentation again, a video of his talk is now posted on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Nebatallahassee/>.) We are also looking to expand our "social media" - better Facebook, Twitter, and so on. Stay tuned!

Thank you for being a member of NEBA. Please encourage your friends and business colleagues to join us as well; there is strength in numbers and ours are growing - NEBA is the voice for small business!

Until next time,

Terry Madigan, NEBA President, 2014



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

Current NEBA Members

Booker Daniels, 54 Freedom Insurance, Bruce Avery, AAA Tree Experts; Annette McGuffey, A Country Rose Florist & Gifts; Connie Phillips & James Stiles, A Dent in the Attic; Bob Hollan, ABOBCO; Mary Doug Wilgus, Accent Office Interiors; Mark Raciappa, ActionCOACH; Vic Aderhold, Aderhold; Jonathan Keith, Advanced Business Systems; Chris Keena, Advisors Real Estate Group; Jeff Ragan, Aerotech Digital Marketing; Dennis Florence, AFLAC; James Perry, Air Control Heating & Cooling; Akin Akinyemi, Akin Associates, Architects; Chris Akins, Akins Campaign Strategy; Aletta Shutes, Aletta Shutes & Assoc.; Laurie Jemison, Ameri-can Classifieds Thrifty Nickel; Tawinga Katsvairo, Arc Horizon LLC; Andy Roberts, Arco Realty; Lance Norris, Arcpoint of Tallahassee; Debbie Kirkland & Mark Trafton IV, Realtor Arm-or Realty of Tallahassee; James R (Jim) Ashlock; Sam Varn, Awards4U; Brett Bosarge, BB&T Home Mortgage; Billy Van Landingham, BB&T-Landrum Yeager Insurance; Catherine Baer, Baer; Jim Clarke, Batteries Plus Bulbs; Barney Bishop III, Barney Bishop Consulting LLC; Don Pumphrey, Bartlett Tree Experts; 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; Joe Boyd, Boyd, Durant & Sliger, PL; Doug Saunders, Brown & Brown; Bill Brueckheimer, Jr DDS, Brueckheimer Family & Cosmetic Dentistry; 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; Ted Nation, Capstone Financial; Lynn Wolshlager, 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 Partington Hart; Barbara Clements, Clements Financial Services, Inc.; Cassandra Harbin, Coldwell Banker Hartung & Noblin; Steve Stewart, Commercial Print & Copy; Millard Noblin, Community Property Mgt; Ashley Trafton, Cotton Colors; Eric Sweet, Daktronics, Inc.; Dan Vollmer, Realtor; Dave Lang; Charles Davis, Davis; Brian Desloge, Desloge Home Oxygen & Medical Equipment; Kristian Dunn, Dickens & Dunn, PA; Don Bell, Donald L Bell, PA; 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; David Hinton, FIGA; Sherwood Brown, First Commerce Credit Union; Jim Koberger, Florida Farm Bureau Insurance; James Hosman, Florida First Capital Finance Corp; Tom Napier, Florida Osteopathic Medical Assoc.; Sandra Tate, Fonvielle, 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; Sue Dick, Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce; Rebecca Hale; Irene Haley, Haley Retired; Michael Anderson, Hancock Bank; Harry Hooper, Harry Hooper, Atty; Roscoe Hightower, Jr, Hightower Consulting; Phil Swartz, Holiday Cruises & Tours; Mike Kelly, Holiday Inn & Suites, Monroe St Conference Center; Jenny Wells, Imagine That; Gary Stout, Ingram Enterprises; Erwin Jackson, Jackson Properties & Financial Services; Jan Soto, Jan Soto Realty; Jerrell Lowery, Jerrell

NEBA'S APRIL MEETING: STATE ATTORNEY WILLIE MEGGS



State Attorney Willie Meggs

NEBA welcomed Tallahassee native, State Attorney Willie Meggs, to discuss the Title IX investigation of FSU and the direct impact it may have. Meggs has a deep rooted, long standing connection to the local community with 8 terms under his belt and several accreditations.

After an 11 month lapse where no headway was made regarding this case, the State Attorney's office picked it up and ran. Initially there were in upwards of 50 calls per day from the media inquiring about updates. With several loose ends to tie up, Meggs met with the victim and her lawyer, who was the victim's aunt and rather difficult to deal with. Thousands of letters and emails from all over came flooding in following the early December, 2012 press conference, leaving Meggs very criticized via hate mail. The slander didn't stop there, but carried into the

Bill O'Riley show where Geraldo Rivera "ate up Meggs for lunch" with incorrect facts. Meggs fired back by calling to set matters straight, stating "Geraldo Rivera is entitled to his opinion but he's not entitled to the facts, and he's making up facts!"

All facts and evidence collected by Meggs and local law enforcement were turned over to aid in the Federal Investigation against FSU about violating the Student Conduct Code. The Federal Title IX Investigation of this "very difficult matter," proclaimed Meggs; leaving FSU to decide who plays and who is a student at this institution. The State Attorney's Office is convinced that if things had been handled sooner and in a more organized fashion, that "we might have been able to procure/obtain more information/videos, etc." Meggs concluded that "worst case scenario for FSU: could result possibly in expulsion as a student."

NEBA'S MAY MEETING: TCC PRESIDENT, DR. JIM MURDAUGH

Dr. Jim Murdaugh, President of TCC and chair of the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County, addressed NEBA to discuss college and economic landscapes and how they overlap. Not only is he a member of the Chamber of Commerce, United Way of the Big Bend, and other community committees, he was nominated as the 2012 Tallahassee Leader of the year in addition to being inducted into the FSU College of Criminal Justice Hall of Fame.

He expressed his vision of a community that meets all of the community needs: college of choice, employer of choice, partner of choice. Unfortunately, this year in Florida, the Legislature put a moratorium on new Bachelorette Programs (2 year degree on top of a 2 year Associates Degree) that directly affected TCCs request that the first two years would be at TCC with a guaranteed entry to FSU as a Junior. Having a larger culturally diverse student population than FAMU, with students from 86 countries, TCC is rated very highly and costs approximately 1/2 that of a University due to a single focus on teaching, not competition.



Dr. Jim Murdaugh, TCC President

With over 800 businesses in the local non-profit sector, Jim expressed "it is our responsibility to support and grow our economic needs and workforce." The Institute for Non-Profit Center, located in the Capital Center (old Brogan, 3rd floor), helping local business grow into a successful business through many avenues including increased technology. TCC's Manufacturing Training Center was off to a slow start, but has experienced a steady increase, helping counties increase their bottom lines. As chair of the EDC, Murdaugh projects business retention and expansion with the Entrepreneurial Business Excellence Program stirring up 4,000+ potential jobs.

Additionally, Dr. Murdaugh expressed his jubilation of TCC's Wakulla Environmental Institute that will bring a projected 900-950 jobs over 10 years as it builds the infrastructure for Eco Tourism in the Big Bend; making Wakulla County a destination for recreation, conservation, and education.

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



Lowery State Farm Insurance; Jim Hart; Bon Clarke, Keller Williams Realty; Ken Walton, Ken Walton & Assoc; Gail Mobley-Loveless, Ketcham Realty Group; Kevin & Kathleen Kelly, Kevin's Guns & Sporting Goods; Cliff Loughmiller, KLL Contracting, Inc.; Ray McCaillister, Jr., L. Ray McCaillister, 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; Leonard Helfand, Esq; Kirk Headley-Perdue, Linkages; Meghan Kelly, Lisa Miller & Assoc.; Lew Wilson, Local Senior Discounts.co-m; Alan Williams, M W Land Investments; 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; 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, Myers Park Lane LLC; Nic Gavalas, Nic's Toggery; Rod Vaughn, North Florida Agents Network, Inc; David Bauer, John Curry & Hugh Tomlinson, North Florida Financial; Patrick Barton, Northwestern Mutual; Brett O'Brien, O'Brien's Shamrock Cleaners; Cheryl Gratt, Office Pro of Tallahassee; Bill Oliver, Oliver Renovation & Construction, Inc; Mike Frieder, On Call Computer Solutions, LLC; Bill Wert, Orkin Pest Control; Brian Boulware, Palmetto Security Service; J Michael Pate, Pate; Matt Milley, Pay-Out USA, Inc; Mary Stafford, Prime Meridian Bank; Mike Ferrie, Prime South Properties; Hank Rosen, ProCom Realty; 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; 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; Fred Saxton, Saxton Real Estate Consulting, LLC; 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; Kurt Tellers, St. James Certified Property Mgmt.; Peter Steuer, Sunrise Car-pet Cleaning; Tom Chabasian, Sunshine Car Care DBA Super-Lube; Michele Lynch, Sunshine Savings Bank; Randy Martin, SureGrip Floor Safety Solutions; Steven Loucheim, Tallahassee Board of Realtors; Cari Evans, Tallahassee Democrat; Jay Revell, Tallahassee Downtown Improvement; Lewis Buford, Tallahassee Land, Co.; Ben Graybar & Bill Moore, Tallahassee State Bank; Susan Fairbrother & Jackie Wilson, Tallahassee Technology Group Inc/Xerox; Tim Edmond, The Edmond Group, LLC; Mike Schmidt, The Egg Café and Eatery; Drs. Deana & Hamilton, The Focal Pointe; Don Vodicka, The Gem Collection; Mike Campbell, The Jim Moran Institute for Global; Lucretia Thomas, Thomas Acquisition & Property Specialist; Ted Thomas, Thomas Mitchell Realty; Matt Ryan, Timberlane Appraisal Assoc.; Dennis Scarry, Time Saver Accounting; Harry Bosman, UPS Store; Richard Yood, Vernon Graphics & Promotions; Alan Null, Waddell & Reed Inc; Heather Peebles, WCTV-TV; John Mackie, Wells Fargo Advisors; Jennifer Benners, Whites Plumbing; Matt Willard, Willard/Hurley; Pete Williams, Esq; Scott Hunt, Willis / Hunt Insurance Group, LLC; Barry Kaye, WVFT Freedom 93

NEBA'S JUNE MEETING: GARY YORDON, CONSULTANT & POLITICAL ADVISOR

NEBA welcomed back Gary Yordon, Political Advisor/Consultant. Following his declaration that "politics are a fine equation of calculation and precision," Gary commenced with numbers for both the Governor's and Congressional races, stressing focus on your target %; spending time and money there, not where the market is already gone. While Broward County should be watched closely to determine how Florida will lean in the Governor's race, Gary declared that the Congressional race is Southerland's to lose.

He described the percentage of the *true* deciding voters used to be a "3 legged stool," where the legs were identified as businesses, the black community, and neighborhoods. Attributable to economic development, NE Tallahassee is now a vital component of the "3 legged stool," replacing businesses. With only 1 in 7 voters actually making it to the polls, the Northeast is more relevant as citizens and voters rather than business leaders. The business community is now forced to examine "what do we stand for?" "what do we do?" and "where do we want to go?" While the

rearview mirror offers sexy conversation and reflection, the windshield demands questions be asked of *who*, *what*, and *where* and ultimately answered. Gary stated "one must be willing to look foolish to put a big idea on the table and there's not enough of this in the local community."



Gary Yordon, Consultant & Political Advisor

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

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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, \$18 per guest, cash and check preferred.

Capital City Country Club

1601 Golf Terrace Drive

- July 22 - Panel Debate: City Commission Races, School Board
- Aug. 26 - Elmira Magnum, Florida A&M President
- Sept. 23 - Debate: US Representative Steve Southerland and challenger Gwen Graham

**guest speakers subject to change without notice*



**Network of Entrepreneurs
& Business Advocates**

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