



NEBANews

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Winter 2017 Edition

2017 Officers

President: Will Croley,
Douglas Croley Insurance
Services

**President-elect: Catherine
Baer**, business advocate

**Secretary: Cora Ann
Chapman**, retired

Treasurer: Kaila Hardee,
Capital City Bank Group

**Past President: Barney
Bishop**, Barney Bishop
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Jackie Wilson, Tallahassee
Technology Group, Inc

President's Message

First, I want to say thank you for the honor and privilege to serve as your 2017 President. I also want to thank Barney Bishop for his leadership and guidance during the 2016 election cycle. Although some of the election outcomes were not what we hoped, we will still work together and advocate for our business community.

During the upcoming year we are planning to have speakers and programs that focus on business advocacy and economic growth within our region. To kick that off in January, representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council will be highlighting their plans for the upcoming year. So please mark your Calendars for January 24 and what will be a very interesting discussion.

Please join me in welcoming Kaila Hardee to the NEBA Board. She was recently elected to fill the spot that was previously occupied by Bert Bevis, a

Past President of NEBA. Also, I want to thank Bert for the time and commitment that he put into NEBA for the last several years.



Will Croley, NEBA
President

My goals for 2017 are to continue our membership growth and maintain the influence that we have had in the business community for over the past 25 years. Board member Hugh Tomlinson did a great job leading our membership committee this past year and I plan to offer him the tools to grow our organization to over 325 by years' end.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Happy New Year!

Business Issues in the Upcoming Legislative Session

By Emily Fritz

Barney Bishop presided over his last meeting as NEBA president on November 29. He thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve as president and praised the board for their support. He presented the following awards and thanked the recipients for

their service:

- Officer of the Year: Cora Ann Chapman
- Director of the Year: Catherine Baer

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Tax Collector Candidates Square Off; Jim Messer Gives His Vision for House District 9

By Emily Fritz

The final candidate forum was held on October 25, featuring the candidates for Leon County Tax Collector and Florida House of Representatives District 9.

Incumbent Tax Collector Doris Maloy (D) was challenged by John Paul Bailey (R). Mrs. Maloy stressed her accounting and MBA degrees and the improvements




Incumbent Tax Collector Doris Maloy (D) and challenger John Paul Bailey (R)

she made during her 16 years in office. Mr. Bailey stressed his public service as a police officer and city commissioner, emphasizing the value of his budget experience. He stated that he would improve customer service in the office by offering apps, a popular payment method for young people. Mrs. Maloy won the NEBA straw poll and won the election on November 8.

House District 9 candidate Jim Messer (R) explained the advantage of having a representative in the Florida House in the majority party. Because District 9 representatives



Jim Messer, Candidate for House District 8

have been in the minority party since 1996, Leon County's needs are often overlooked. Mr. Messer's Democratic opponent, Loranne Ausley, was scheduled to participate in the forum but had a last minute scheduling conflict. No straw poll was conducted, but the NEBA PAC board endorsed Messer. Loranne Ausley won the November 8 election. 

Have a Heart Celebration to Help TMH Cardiac Unit

By Peggy Munroe

Five years ago, we lost our oldest son to a massive heart attack.

In our grief, we wanted to do something that might prevent other parents from going through that devastation. We also wanted to make sure that Ray, Jr, was not forgotten.

The result was Have a Heart Celebration, which will be held on February 16 of this year, with funds designated for The Ray Munroe, Jr, PHD, Endowment at the TMH Foundation. Since our inaugural in 2014, we have raised almost \$100,000

Unlike most charitable events,

100% of the money raised goes directly to the Tallahassee Memorial Heart and Vascular Center. Mays-Munroe and our vendors cover all overhead.


All money is processed by TMH, which is a registered 501C charity, and all donors will receive receipts directly from TMH. It is a win-win for everyone!

Admission is complimentary, although donations are welcome. Guests will enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, drinks, music and opportunities to bid on high quality Live Auction items. Silent auction items will also be offered.

Multiple items will be raffled.

Cardiologist, Frank Gredler, MD, will give us a brief update on advances in cardio vascular treatment. Afterwards, auctioneer Malcolm Mason of Manor Auctions will preside over the Live Auction.

Please join us for the fun! If you would like to donate an auction item or money, please call me at 385-9495 or email at peggy@talstar.com

Have a Heart Celebration, February 16, 2017, starting at 5:30 PM at the Mays-Munroe showroom, 2791 Capital Circle NE. Free Valet Parking. 



...Business Issues continued from page 1

- Committee Chair of the Year: Hugh Tomlinson
- President's Award: Will Croley
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Peggy Munroe



NEBA founder and former president Peggy Munroe is awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award

The meeting program was a panel discussion about business issues in the upcoming legislative session. The panelists were Bill

Herrle, Executive Director of National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); Dominic Calabro, CEO Florida TaxWatch; and Brewster Bevis, Senior Vice President for State and Federal Affairs of Associated Industries of Florida (AIF). The moderator was Nancy Smith of Sunshine State News.

Mr. Calabro raised the issue of Florida being the only state with a tax on business rent. However, Speaker Richard Corcoran's current concerns about a potential budget deficit may make tax cuts difficult. The panelists agreed that Governor Scott's request for \$85 million for economic development will likely be blocked by the Speaker.

Mr. Bevis explained that Speaker Corcoran will require all legislative member projects to be stand-alone bills. Senators will have to get House sponsors for their member projects.

The hottest topic was a 14.5 percent increase in workers' compensation rates. The increase was challenged in the courts and is under appeal at the time of this writing. Mr. Herrle and Mr. Bevis said that court rulings declaring caps on attorney fees to be unconstitutional were the reason for the increase. They believe a legislative

fix is necessary.

Several opinions were expressed about Obamacare, including the potential for Medicaid block grants to the states and more market-driven proposals. AIF and NFIB took no position on medical marijuana. TaxWatch opposed it. All panelists oppose a minimum wage increase. State worker pay raises are not a high priority of their organizations, and they made no predictions. They agreed that automobile PIP should not be repealed.

In closing, the panel encouraged the audience to meet with their legislators and express their opinions on business issues. They stressed the fact that legislators listen to their constituents.



Catherine Baer is awarded the Director of the Year Award



L-R: Bill Herrle, Executive Director of National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); Dominic Calabro, CEO Florida TaxWatch; Brewster Bevis, Senior Vice President for State and Federal Affairs of Associated Industries of Florida (AIF); and Nancy Smith of Sunshine State News.



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Upcoming Meetings

January 24:

Outlook for Jobs in 2017 with Sue Dick from the Chamber, Jay Revell, Al Latimer, and Ben Pingree

February 28:

Panel Discussion: Challenges with the City of Tallahassee and Leon County Permitting Departments

March 28:

TBA

