

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to each one of you, your families and staff!

I am excited to announce plans for our upcoming events to be held in the first quarter of 2011. Dates of the events will be released at a later time.

- We will continue our "Coffee with the Senator" series with a brunch to be held at Butler Snow. Our special guest will be Senator Roger Wicker.

- The Business League was invited to host our next "League & the Legislator" event in the judiciary room of the state capitol in February. We will recognize our 12 state senators and representatives during an informal luncheon. They will enlighten us on legislation that passed committees and will come up for votes before the house and the senate during the 2011 session.

- The large event planned for spring 2011 will be Healthcare Forum 2011. This will involve members of our healthcare services community and elected officials who will give us insight and understanding into an array of healthcare issues that will affect our businesses and us individually.

- We will host our first Youth Economic De-

velopment Leadership Day. This event will involve 2 of the best and brightest students from each of our 10 high schools in Madison County.

- The Business League will unveil a plan to partner our members with MCE-DA for some programs in 2011.

Thank you for your support of the Madison County Business League in 2010 through your membership and participation in our events. It is a pleasure getting to know you and your companies and I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your executive director. We will continue our mission of working together to help enhance the quality of life in our community! One vision, one voice. (All for one and one for all!)



JAN COLLINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



BILL GUION, BANKPLUS, CHAIRMAN

December is traditionally month of celebration and fellowship. In the spirit of the Holiday Season, I would like to thank you all for your participation in the Madison County Business League. I am excited about our success this

past year. The Fall Forum at the Yacht Club, was a lot of fun. The weather was perfect, the food was great and fellowship was wonderful. Jan did an excellent job organizing that event for us as well as all of the others for 2010.

As we all look forward to a break at the end of the year, I hope you will also be looking forward to the coming year. We pledge to bring you

more exciting and informative events in 2011 and we hope to see each and every one of you in the months ahead. Again, thank you for your continued support and may you and your family have a blessed and happy holiday season.



Chairman Bill Guion presenting outgoing Chairman Todd Burwell with a plaque in appreciation of his service from 2008-2010.

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A WORD FROM MCEDA Tim Coursey

To all the members of the Business League I want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas! I hope and pray that you and your family receive many special blessing this year in return for all the good things you do each and every day. I also want to tell all of you Thank You. Thank You for everything you do for your neighbors in Madison County and thank you for helping the Business League to grow and prosper. The Business League now has over 80 members and is growing bigger and stronger every day. Great job Business League! As you know, this didn't happen automatically. It took the generous support of you, our members, and strong leadership and direction from the Business League Board and our director Jan Collins. I don't have to tell any of you what a working dynamo Jan Collins is and how much of a wonderful person she is... we are so lucky to have her at the helm of the Business League. Great work Business League and we look forward to what the League has in store for the next year!

On another note, MCEDA is of course look-



Jim Richmond, Director of Corporate Communications, accepting the 2010 "VISIONS" award from MCEDA Executive Director Tim Coursey.

ing forward to our continuing partnership with the Business League and we are looking at ways in which we can leverage the resources of our two organizations for the benefit of both organizations, and Madison County in a comprehensive sense. I stress the word partnership because when we act as one to support economic development initiatives...speaking with one united voice, not only are we stronger but we become much more competitive. Not to sound cliché but when we are competing against the world for new jobs and investment, the more people we have working together, the better our chances are for success. Given today's challenging economy, this is

more important than ever. So, although our partnership provides real tangible leverage right now, one of our goals will be to take a look at how we can work even closer with the Business League to leverage the knowledge and experience or the membership. Jan and I will have more to say about this after the first of the year rolls around.

By the way, the Canton Film Studio is slated to open in late January or early February. The renovations are ongoing at the site of the former Canton Sound Stage and the facility is really starting to shape up. You might want to drive by and see for yourself...it's on Watford Parkway in the Canton Commercial and Industrial Center around the corner from the Canton Multi-Purpose Complex and Equestrian Arena. We wish Jo Ann Gordon and Nick Smerigan, who are spearheading the effort, all the best. There is a grand opening being planned for February so please contact either Jan or me for sponsorship information...it's going to be big event with all the works of a movie debut including the red carpet and hopefully a few celebrities popping in for a photo op.

If you were able to attend the League's Fall meeting you know that we presented the first "Vision Award" for Excellence in Economic Development. The award went to Cellular South and as we explained at the meeting, they were chosen because of their huge contribution to the local economy with payrolls and investment and because they are such a wonderful corporate neighbor. MCEDA and the League jointly created this award to recognize a Business League member company that truly has "vision" as evidenced by their continued successes, their impacts on our local economy, and their prospects for continued growth.

There are some big things that we are involved with that are happening around the County and we hope to be in the position to tell you more in the next newsletter but for now we don't want to distract from what is most important to all of us right now. From the staff and Board of MCEDA, we wish you all a Merry and Happy Christmas.



TIM COURSEY

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