

## MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE UPDATE

A little update on recent activities of the League and your board. As is the practice of the League, we have just seated the board for 2012-13. We welcome new board members Sherry Chance of Tulane University, Sidney Allen of Butler Snow and MCEDA representative Lanny Slaughter. A big thanks goes out to Immediate Past Chairman Sarah Lofton for her service this past year. Our organization requires a service heart and Sarah has certainly done her job. Additionally, Todd Burwell and Philip LeRoux rolled off of the board. The League was quite fortunate to have Todd as our first chairman, having serving two terms, and Philip did an excellent job filling Billy Martin's unexpired term as Secretary/Treasurer. Our thanks go out to both of them for their willingness to serve.

2012 is off to an impressive start! The Joint Government Relations Committee hosted a "League & Legislature" breakfast in January and a "League & Legislature" luncheon in March in the MS capitol for all state legislators. MCEDA and MCBL sponsored the tremendously successful 2012 Madison County Youth Leadership program for 22 of our best and brightest public/private school students. This program highlights successful businesses and career opportunities right here in their own backyards! The Economic Symposium 2012: Economic Perspectives for Madison County, held in May, was a magnificent event hosted by Nissan North America. As if that were not enough activity, several of us traveled to Washington DC in February as a part of the "United for Progress" delegation to meet with our Congressional delegation and host a reception in the US Capitol. The purpose of the trip was to show unity between the public/private sectors and express our gratitude to them for their efforts on our behalf. Madison County is continuing to be engaged and we are aggressively attacking our economy to maintain and grow our community. I will have more comments regarding our DC trip next month along with some observations of where I believe we as an organization should be marching (based on our meetings with the congressmen and senators).

Our committees are also busy hosting small meetings and events addressing their individual

topics. I encourage you to go to our website at [www.madisoncountybusinessleague.com](http://www.madisoncountybusinessleague.com) (About MCBL) and check out the committee opportunities and get involved. It will add great networking value and benefits for your membership.

The League board is currently conducting "Each One Reach One" membership drive chaired by Director Buck Covington. The board hopes that all of you will make an effort to help refer at least ONE new member. We all know that if we can grow the League it will enable us, in numbers and in operating funds, to do more for the county. The networking benefits to all of us have been and can continue to be outstanding. The size of our organization does matter, especially when there is a community project or influence with our government leaders.

We have some great programs and plans for the next 12 months, and a considerable amount of "due diligence" is being done by our various committees to come back to you soon with updates. One particular program we are working on, when we get all the preliminary work completed, could very well be one of the strongest statements for a county in Mississippi. I remember in all of life's lessons, my father once told me that if a man, at the end of his race in life, can have one person stand up and say that you made a difference, then your life was good. We have been and are making a difference in Madison county and we're just getting started.

My personal thanks to each of you, and I look forward to serving as your Chairman for this current term. Please let me know what I can do to help keep our group strong, and make it bigger and better.

See you at the "Coffee with Governor Bryant" luncheon on August 17th.

With warm regards,  
Dick Hutchinson, *MCBL Chairman*



DICK HUTCHINSON  
MCBL CHAIRMAN

## PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS



# LONGWITZ A "NEW STAR" IN THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

There was a new star in the Mississippi legislature this year: conservative, pro-business values. For the first time in 140 years, the Senate, the House and the Governor were all Republican. As a result, our pro-growth policies finally became law. What does this mean for Madison County? For now and for the foreseeable future, Madison County wins with Republican leadership.

Republicans took office to grow the economy, to lower taxes and to spend your money wisely. During the 2012 legislative session we did that.

Everyone knows the government can't create jobs. But we can create a better climate for job creation. We took a major step toward a better business climate in Madison County by reducing the hated "inventory tax." This job-killing tax has stymied business and frustrated owners in Mississippi for years. It punishes people for the inventory on their shelves that their customers want and need. Eliminating this tax will encourage businesses to sell more products and make more money. Under our changes, a business still pays the tax, but gets a credit for amounts paid above \$5,000 annual profit. My long-term goal is to free all businesses from this burden. I hope this is the beginning of the end for the inventory tax.

We saved money. In a stark change from business as usual, we balanced the budget and put \$200 million into the state's reserves. We also authorized no new debt. Hopefully we can start paying for critical needs with money we have, instead of putting more debt on your children and grandchildren's credit card.

We made Mississippi more attractive for health care. New "health care zones" will encourage investment near existing hospitals. Many of the people I represent will still have to drive south for hospital care, and this bill did not do as much for Madison County as I wanted. But I believe our health care options will grow as a result.

Small businesses can now help craft the laws that affect them through the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act. A volunteer panel of small business-people will suggest improvements to current and proposed law. These are the folks who know how regulations hurt them; they should tell us how to fix them.

Anyone with five or more employees knows we needed business-friendly improvements to our state's workers' compensation law. This year, under a bill I authored, we got them. The new law brings fairness and balance back to workers' comp. Gone is the presumption in favor of the claimant every time. For a generation or more, businesses have simply paid policy limits instead of fighting cases of obvious fraud. Employers can now fight fraud without fear. Under the new laws, legitimate claims will get paid, the system will be tilted back



**Senator Will Longwitz**  
District 25  
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Email: [will@willlongwitz.com](mailto:will@willlongwitz.com) | Phone: 601.605.5879

**Committees: Constitution (Vice-Chair); Business & Financial Institutions; County Affairs; Ethics; Finance; Insurance; Judiciary A**

into balance and Madison County's workplaces will be safer. Employers will have the right to test for intoxication, illegal drug use and improper prescription drug use after any injury, without fear of being sued for libel. We also brought back apportionment to the system, so a business doesn't pay for injuries it didn't cause. Fraud and litigation should now decrease, and insurance rates should go down. With this workers' comp reform, Madison County and Mississippi will be more competitive in attracting new and better jobs.

Gov. Bryant was right when he called this the most business-friendly legislature in Mississippi history. With Republicans in charge, you can count on more conservative, pro-growth legislation in years to come. Under the leadership of Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves and Speaker Philip Gunn, Madison County wins.

Will Longwitz represents Senate District 25, which currently includes parts of Madison, Ridgeland, Gluckstadt and northeast Jackson. You can follow him at [facebook.com/willlongwitz](https://www.facebook.com/willlongwitz) and on Twitter @willlongwitz.

## MCBL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Dick Hutchinson**  
Chairman  
*MCEDA*

**Sherry Chance**  
Vice Chairman  
*Tulane University*

**John Almond**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
*Allen & Hosball*

**Sarah Lofton**  
Immediate Past Chairman  
*Lofton Advertising*

**Bill Guion**  
Past Chairman  
*BankPlus*

**Buck Covington**  
Director  
*WEICHERT, REALTORS*  
*The Covington Group*

**Scott Parrish**  
Director  
*BankcorpSouth*

**James (Jim) Pettis III**  
Director  
*Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, LLC*

**Jennifer Sinclair**  
Director  
*St. Dominic Health Services*

**Lanny Slaughter**  
Director  
*MCEDA*

**Sidney Allen**  
Director  
*Butler Snow*

### Ex-Officio Directors:

**Supervisor John Bell Crosby**  
*President, Madison County BOS*  
**Mayor William Truly**  
*City of Canton*  
**Mayor Leslie Childress**  
*Town of Flora*  
**Mayor Mary Hawkins Butler**  
*City of Madison*  
**Mayor Gene McGee**  
*City of Ridgeland*

**Executive Director**  
Jan Collins

## -- WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS --



SIDNEY ALLEN, Butler Snow



SHERRY CHANCE, Tulane University



# -- EVENTS --

# SAVE THE DATE

## 2012 Visions Celebration Luncheon

*Guest Speaker, Brent Christensen, Executive Director, Miss. Development Authority*

Tuesday, August 7, 2012 | 11:30 am – 1 p.m.  
Embassy Suites Hotel | Ridgeland

Reserved Seating

Doors open at 11:30 am

# SAVE THE DATE

## “COFFEE with the GOVERNOR”

*A Luncheon with the Honorable Phil Bryant Governor of the Great State of Mississippi*

Friday, August 17, 2012 | Noon – 1:00 p.m.  
Embassy Suites Hotel | Ridgeland

Reserved Seating

Doors open at 11:30 am

# -- MEMBER SPOTLIGHT --

## VENTURE TECHNOLOGIES

In 1986, Gerard Gibert and Norman Katool saw the microcomputer revolution on the horizon and founded an IT services company to meet the growing technology needs of area businesses. Today, Venture Technologies, headquartered in Ridgeland, Mississippi, is a thriving business with offices in five locations across the southeast including a secure Data Center in Jackson, MS and serves thousands of customers across the south and even internationally.

Venture's IT solutions fall into three categories: Premise Infrastructure Solutions, Collaboration Solutions and VTCloud® Services. Premise Solutions include solutions a company would need on their office or site such as Network Infrastructure, Network Security, Servers, Storage and Virtualization, and Product Fulfillment (desktops, printers, tablets, and other IT products).

Venture's Collaboration Solutions help organizations boost productivity, accelerate decision-making, and improve business processes. These solutions include VoIP and Unified Communications, Video and Web Conferencing, Enterprise Social Software, and more.

In addition, Venture provides VTCloud® Services, which are cloud-based Data Center services that alleviate companies from the burden and expense of owning, operating, and maintaining in-house IT assets. These solutions include Hosted Apps, Hosted Microsoft Exchange Email, UCloud-Hosted VoIP, Infrastructure-as-a-Service, Business Continuity and Watch—monitoring and security services.

One of Venture's most popular new offerings is UCloud—Hosted Voice over IP and Unified Communications. UCloud integrate voice, video,



Norman Katool and Gerard Gibert

mobility, conferencing, voicemail, IM, email, fax, and more into a seamless, easy-to-use platform.

The solution replaces a company's current phone system and provider with a fully-managed solution meaning that performs all installation, training, maintenance, backup, support and administration. All a company needs is a secure Internet connection and all of its branches are linked through a robust communications platform that improves productivity and saves time and money.

Venture Technologies partners with dozens of best-in-class technology partners including Cisco, EMC, VMware, VCE, IBM, Microsoft, Apple, HP, Dell, LifeSize, Barracuda, and Blue Coat. The company has been recognized as one of Mississippi's Best Places to work in 2011 by the Mississippi Business Journal. They are also part of the MBJ's Mississippi 100 and CRN's 2012 Tech Elite 250 and Service Provider 500 (SP500) lists. To learn more about Venture Technologies visit [ventech.com](http://ventech.com).

# PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS



-- EVENTS --

# 2012 ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM



Madison County Business League Economic Symposium 2012 Speakers (from left) were: Dr. Dave Altig, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Pete Walley, MS IHL, State Treasurer Lynn Fitch, and John Wilson, Morgan Keegan (Chattanooga).

The Madison County Business League and the Madison County Economic Development Authority presented The Economic Symposium 2012: Economic Perspectives for Madison County on Thursday, May 10, 2012. The breakfast was held at the Nissan North America, Inc. Training Center in Canton, MS.

Presenters and speakers for the event included State Treasurer Lynn Fitch; Dan Bednaryzk, Nissan North America VP Manufacturing - Canton, MS; Dr. Dave Altig, Executive VP of Marketing Research for the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta; Pete Walley, Long Range Economic Development Planning Director for the MS IHL; John S. Wilson, Managing Director and Chief Technical Strategist of Equity Capital Markets for Morgan Keegan, Chattanooga, TN.



Download the presentations from the 2012 Economic Symposium. View the **DOWNLOADS** link at [madisoncountybusinessleague.com](http://madisoncountybusinessleague.com).

## LEAGUE AND LEGISLATURE



Pictured Speaker of the House and Madison County Representative Philip Gunn

The Madison County Business League hosted the 2012 "LEAGUE & LEGISLATURE" luncheon at the Mississippi State Capitol on Wednesday, March 21st catered by VIP Grand Events.

One hundred seventy five Business League members, local elected/appointed officials, state legislators and students representatives from Madison County Schools were in attendance. Speaker of the House Philip Gunn addressed the group along with a legislative panel comprised of Senators Kenny Wayne Jones, John Horhn, Josh Harkins and Will Longwitz and Representatives Rita Martinson and Bill Denny. Chancery Clerk Arthur Johnston moderated the panel which discussed 2012 legislation.



## PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS





-- EVENTS --

# MADISON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP



Group shot at Mad Genius in front of green screen.



The Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) and the Madison County Business League proudly announce 2012 Madison County Youth Leadership:

Economic Development Day. The event will be held on March 27, 2012. Two (2) of the best and brightest sophomores/juniors have been selected by their respective administrations to represent 10 of our public and private Madison County High Schools along with New Summit School in Jackson - twenty-two students in total.

The purpose of the event is to “inspire” and “expose” students to a variety of our leading businesses, successful businesspersons and career opportunities in Madison County. They will visit with manufacturers, engineers, healthcare providers, TV/movie producers, developers, and a wireless company in addition to educators representing our local colleges and universities.

Businesses participating are Citizens Bank, Mad Genius, C Spire, H.C. Bailey Companies, Madison River Oaks Medical Center, MSU Center for Vehicular Studies, and Nissan North America. Speakers include Governor Ronnie Musgrove and MS Technology Alliance CEO Tony Jeff. Sponsors for the event include the Business League’s Platinum and Gold Sponsors,



Photo of former Governor Ronnie Musgrove- motivational speaker at the YL breakfast

Entergy and Madison County Citizens Services Agency. BancorpSouth will present a \$250.00 savings bond to one lucky student.

Students chosen to participate in the program are Hart Pepper and Jana Clanton, Canton Academy; Ebony Hayes and Gabriella Steele, Canton High School; Zach Ogletree and Anna Lindsay, Madison Central High School; Merrie Morgan Volk and Chance McNulty, Germantown High School; Aalaap Desai and Nicholas Cobb, Madison Ridgeland Academy; Caitlyn Ross and Mark McMillin, St. Andrew’s Episcopal School; Eduardo Zuniga and Anna Edge, St. Joseph Catholic School; Cole Hillman and Amanda Hodge, Tri-County Academy; Ji Jennings and Ferderica Cobb, Velma Jackson High School; Locke Leverette and Lake Jones, New Summit School; Kalah Walker and Kelsey Sims, Ridgeland High School.

## PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS



-- EVENTS --

# SALUTE TO THE ARTS

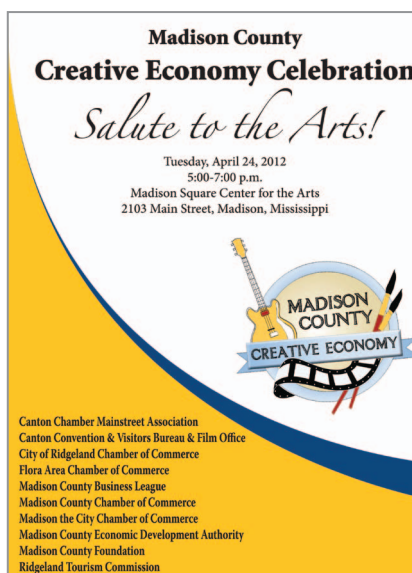


Members of the Madison County Creative Council include, front row, from left, Jackie Morey, Kasey Perry, Pam Mahony, Linda Bynum, Joann Gordon, Jan Collins, Lindsay Schilling, Susan Marquez, Jodi Maughon, Natoya Hill, Katie Hines and Gina Daniels; Back row, Lise Foy and Jana Padgett. Not pictured are Lenita Knight, Wendy Shelton and Mina Thorgeson.



Madison County's artisans were celebrated Tuesday evening, April 24, 2012, at the Madison Square Center for the Arts for a creative economy showcase put on by the newly-formed Madison County Creative Council.

Members of the Canton Chamber Main Street Association, Canton Convention & Visitors Bureau & Film Office, City of Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce, Flora Area Chamber of Commerce, Madison County Business League, Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Madison the City Chamber of Commerce, Madison County Economic Development Authority, Madison County Foundation and the Ridgeland Tourism Commission decided to team up and their first mission was to celebrate the arts and educate about the state's creative economy.



# UNITED FOR PROGRESS



Former Senator Trent Lott, Senator Roger Wicker, Senator Thad Cochran and Cochran Staffer Kay Webber

"United for Progress," a Madison County Delegation comprised of elected and appointed officials and private sector businessmen traveled to Washington, DC to meet with each of our Mississippi senators and congressmen. The Madison County Business League, Madison County Economic Development Authority and the Madison County Foundation partnered to host a reception for the MS delegation and their staffers in the Lyndon B. Johnson Room in the US Capitol. Approximately 150 guests were in attendance. In addition to meeting with each of our congressmen and senators individually on capitol hill, the United for Progress delegation attended a luncheon sponsored by JBHM and Atmos Energy and a dinner sponsored by Allen & Hoshall and Warnock & Associates.



Download the "United for Progress" booklet presented to each of our MS delegation members/staff. View the [DOWNLOADS](#) link at [madisoncountybussinesleague.com](http://madisoncountybussinesleague.com).

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-- ADDITIONAL PHOTOS --

## LEAGUE AND LEGISLATURE



Business League members networking with members of the MS state legislature.



MCBL Executive Director Jan Collins enjoying a light moment with Minority Speaker of the House Rep. Bobby Moak

The Madison County Business League hosted a "League & Legislature" Breakfast on January 18, 2012, at the Mississippi State Capitol.

The event gave the Business League members and opportunity to visit with local, county elected and appointed officials and members of the 2012 MS state legislature. In addition to the League's Platinum and Gold Sponsors, the breakfast was also sponsored by Allen & Hoshall.

## MCBL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### HEALTH/Wellness COMMITTEE

Tray Hairston, Counsel and Policy Advisor for Governor Phil Bryant, addressed members of the Health/Wellness and Government Relations Committees along with members of the MCEDA and MCBL boards, and elected officials during a breakfast on June 19th hosted by the Adams & Reese law firm. Tray presented the governor's vision which led to the recent passage of the MS Health Industry Zone Act in the state legislature. Tray stated that the legislation would create opportunities for improved MS healthcare and economic development leading to job creation.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee continues support of the North Madison County Excel By 5 initiative and continuation and expansion of the Youth Leadership program. (A meeting will be scheduled soon).

### ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMMITTEE

The Entrepreneurship Committee will begin preparations soon for their upcoming annual event. This year they will be targeting young professional entrepreneurs in an afterhours meeting.

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Government Relations Committee is actively involved in hosting events with our elected officials and preparing platforms for questioning at the forums. (A meeting will be scheduled soon). Coffee with Governor Bryant is scheduled for Friday, August 17th at 11:30 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Ridgeland.

### CANTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Canton Community Development Committee participated in the recent city of Canton Charrette held in May. The charrette was sponsored by MCEDA.

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

"Each One Reach One" is the theme of the 2012 Business League membership Drive. Please send your recommendations for prospective members to the Business League office or a membership committee member.

For information about committees and a listing of members, please go to [www.madisoncountybusinessleague.com](http://www.madisoncountybusinessleague.com).



REMEMBER: EVENT PHOTOS CAN BE FOUND AT  
[MADISONCOUNTYBUSINESSLEAGUE.COM](http://MADISONCOUNTYBUSINESSLEAGUE.COM)

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