

BENEFIT FROM THE VALUE.

THIS ISSUE  
INSIDE



— The Alabama Legislature's 2013 regular session is history. Alabama Retail monitored

some 140 bills impacting retail during the session. Some of those issues are highlighted in the centerspread.



— Make plans for the Aug. 2 - 4 back-to-school sales tax holiday. Almost 270 localities are joining

the state tax holiday.



— The 2014 election season has begun. The Alabama Civil Justice Reform

Committee has already made endorsements in the appellate court races.



— The latest news from ARA members. Awards, honors, community involve-

ment and other items worth talking about.



— Wedding bells have been ringing for a member of the Alabama Retail Comp staff. Read all about it

in Team Notes.



## E-Fairness Issue Moves to U.S. House

Alabama Retail members have been vocal in their support of the Marketplace Fairness Act, S. 743,

which the U.S. Senate approved Monday, May 6, on a bipartisan vote of 69-27. If you haven't already, please thank Alabama Sens. Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions for their "yes" votes.

A revised bill could surface in the U.S. House Judiciary Committee after Congress' August recess. U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus, R-Birmingham, a Judiciary Committee member and one of the 66 co-sponsors of the House version of the Marketplace Fairness Act (H.R. 684) has asked for a committee hearing for the Senate bill. While the Senate skipped the committee process and went straight to a floor vote, the House is being more deliberative. Please continue to contact your congressional representative and ask for their support on this fairness issue. Go to **Contact Your U.S. Representative** at [albamaretail.org/findyourlawmaker/](http://albamaretail.org/findyourlawmaker/) to make your views known. Make sure our calls for support are louder than the opposition's calls to stop this bill.



Dianne Wammack and George Wilder

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## Save Oct. 8 for Retail Day'13

Mark your calendars for the 32nd Annual Alabama Retail Day, which will be Tuesday, Oct. 8, at The Club in Birmingham.

The Alabama Retail Association, the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Business and Firestone Complete

**ALABAMARETAIL DAY**

Auto Care serve as hosts for Retail Day, which promotes retailing as an industry and as a career choice. Alabama Retail Day 2013 will feature a Retail Career Fair as well.

Alabama's Retail Day began in 1982 at the University of Alabama at the main campus in Tuscaloosa. In 2006, Retail Day moved to Birmingham under the direction of the Retail Excellence Initiative within the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Business. This will be the eighth year that the Marketing, Industrial Distribution and Economics Department in the UAB School of Business has presented Retail Day to make students aware of the many and varied career opportunities available in retail.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Business plans to establish a Retail Excellence board of directors in 2013 to promote retail as a career choice. **If a human resources representative from your company is interested in serving on the board or participating in the Retail Career Fair, please contact Bob Robicheaux at 205.934.4648.**

Once again, Alabama Retail will honor the achievements of the state's outstanding retailers through its Retailer of the Year and Alabama Centennial Retailer awards. Alabama Retail began honoring Retailers of the Year during Retail Day in 1999 and Centennial Retailers in 2002.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT  
RICK BROWN



It may be summer, but these aren't lazy days.

As you can see on the front of this newsletter and below, your association continues to be on the forefront of the e-fairness issue. You've worked too hard and too long to let this issue slip from our grasp. Keep talking to your congressional representatives, and together we can make 2013 the year the retail playing field is leveled in regard to sales tax collection.

Some of the legislation enacted in the Alabama Legislature's 2013 regular session becomes effective in early August, including new laws governing guns, campaign finances and e-cigarette sales. See the centerspread of this newsletter for more details. If you didn't participate in the mid-July conference call on the new gun law, contact Nancy Dennis of our staff and she'll get you the presentation. Also, Alabama's Medicaid program is undergoing a great deal of change, which could affect pharmacists, doctors, clinics and

others involved in the delivery of Medicaid services. There is more about that on the following page, and we've set up a page on our website to keep you informed. Go to [alabamaretail.org/MedicaidRegionalCareOrganizations/](http://alabamaretail.org/MedicaidRegionalCareOrganizations/)

Fundraising for the 2014 statewide elections has begun. Donors began filing reports in July through a new computerized campaign filing system: <http://fcpa.alabamavotes.gov> The Alabama Civil Justice Reform Committee has already made endorsements. See story, Page 3.

The first weekend of August is the eighth annual back-to-school sales tax holiday (see back page) and we've set Oct. 8 as the date for the 2013 Alabama Retail Day (see front page). Hope we see you in Birmingham! Meanwhile, we are revamping Alabama Retail's website. More to come on that soon.

If you need to talk retail issues and have a free moment this summer, please call or e-mail me. I'd love to hear from you.

Rick Brown: [rbrown@alabamaretail.org](mailto:rbrown@alabamaretail.org)

## E-Fairness Issue Moves to House

continued from Page 1

Let your congressman know you are tired of the government:

- giving your out-of-state competitors a competitive advantage by not requiring them to collect sales taxes; and
- making your store a showroom for those remote competitors.

Alabama Retail members have been on the forefront of this debate for years and have communicated their support for e-fairness at every step in the debate process this year:

• Alabama Retail Chairman Dianne Wammack (**Cameras Brookwood**, Vestavia Hills) and Vice Chairman George Wilder (**The Locker Room**, Montgomery and Auburn), traveled to Washington on March 19 to meet with our congressional delegation.

• *The Montgomery Advertiser* interviewed David and Michael Cohen, vice president and secretary with **Cohens Electronics and Appliances Inc.** of Montgomery, in a story that appeared on the day of the Senate vote.

• Ricky Bromberg, president of Birmingham jewelry store **Bromberg and Co. Inc.**, wrote an opinion piece that appeared in the June 2 *Birmingham News*.

• *The Montgomery Advertiser* revisited the issue with **Capitol Book and News Co.** and **Painted Pink**, both Montgomery small businesses and Alabama Retail members, in a June 7 story.

Twenty-one years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court handed off the decision to Congress to decide when to allow states to compel remote sellers to collect sales taxes. For the past decade, since the proliferation of online communications and the age of advanced computer software, lawmakers have been presenting legislation to give states that option.

The legislation now before Congress requires states to provide retailers with software to simplify tax collection and includes an exemption for businesses with \$1 million or less in remote sales to the 45 states that levy sales taxes.

# Comments due by Aug. 2 on new Medicaid regions; Regions to be in place by Oct. 1

Over the next three years, Alabama will change its Medicaid delivery system from a fee-for-service model to a managed care plan, with regional care organizations contracting with the state to provide patient care.

The state has proposed five regions, none of which match existing regions. The market will drive how many regional care organizations there are in each region. State Health Officer Don Williamson said the guiding factors in drawing the map were:

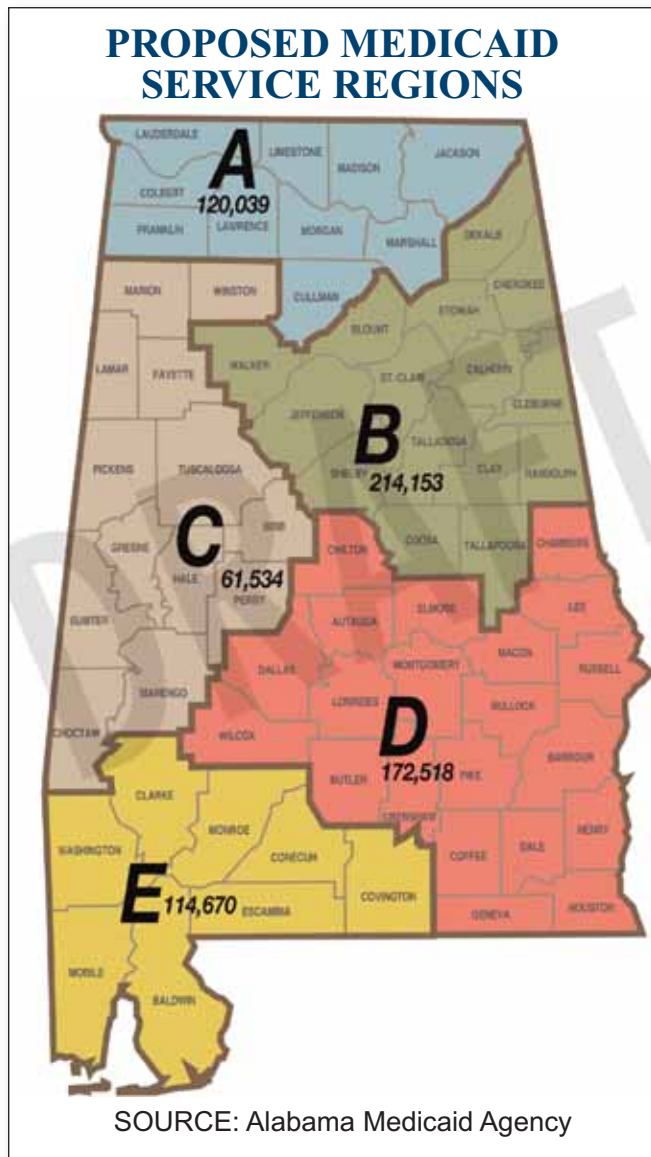
- 1) Creating no region that was too small to support a regional care organization.
- 2) Maintaining hospital and physician referral patterns.
- 3) Keeping hospital systems intact.

The map is subject to public comment and rule-making before it takes effect Oct. 1. The public comment period began June 28; a public hearing was held July 15; and **comments are due to stephanie.lindsay@medicaid.alabama.gov by Friday, Aug. 2.**

Alabama Retail will provide updates on the process at: [alabamaretail.org/MedicaidRegionalCareOrganizations/](http://alabamaretail.org/MedicaidRegionalCareOrganizations/)

Under the regional system, providers will be able to accept Medicaid patients from outside their region if those providers accept the reimbursements offered in the region where the patient resides. Medicaid will set the lowest reimbursement possible for providers outside a region. Physicians and hospitals will be able to contract within their regional organization as well as in adjacent regions. Dr. Williamson said he expects every region to have contracts with Children's of Alabama and the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital, for instance. Contracts with out-of-state hospitals and physicians also are expected.

Some 940,000 people in Alabama receive Medicaid services. Initially, nursing home and dental services will not be part of the regional system. Pharmacy delivery and reimbursement is currently being studied. **See Alabama legislative session summary on Pages 4 and 5.**



## 2014 election season begins; ACJRC makes court endorsements

The governor and other constitutional offices, all 140 legislative seats, all seven congressional seats, one U.S. Senate seat, two civil appeals seats, two criminal appeals seats and one Supreme Court seat will be on the ballot in 2014.

There will be at least one more special election for a legislative seat before the 2014 elections begin as Rep. Jay Love, R-Montgomery, resigned his seat effective Aug. 1. Alabama's 1st Congressional seat will also be up for grabs by Aug. 15 as Rep. Jo Bonner, R-Mobile, steps down that day to

take a position with the University of Alabama System. Both the legislative and congressional replacements will only serve until full-term replacements are elected in the 2014 election cycle.

The Alabama Civil Justice Reform Committee has already endorsed five incumbent judges:

- Justice Greg Shaw for re-election to the Alabama Supreme Court
- Judges Bill Thompson and Scott Donaldson for the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals

- Judges Beth Kellum and Mary Windom for the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals.

The court seats for which ACJRC announced endorsements are the only appellate races on the 2014 ballot. At press time, none of the judges faced opposition. The governor appointed Donaldson to the Court of Civil Appeals in January to fill a vacancy. Ordinarily that seat would not be on the ballot until 2016, but state law requires that a court appointee stand for election at the next general election after he/she has served for one year as an appointee.

For more details, go to **2013 Regular Session Wrap Up** under **Capitol Retail Report Archives** in the **Political Affairs** section of [www.alabamaretail.org](http://www.alabamaretail.org)

*The Alabama Legislature applied the brakes slightly in the 2013 regular session to the dizzying pace at which it had been enacting legislation during the current term. Fewer bills were introduced and fewer were enacted. Even so, more than 400 bills and resolutions became law in 2013. For 70 years, the Alabama Retail Association has represented retailers wherever public policy is made. Alabama Retail advocates for legislation that benefits your business, while protecting retailers from potentially damaging legislation. During the 2013 regular session, your association kept you posted on about 140 retail-related bills in its weekly e-newsletter, Capitol Retail Report. When the 2014 regular session begins Tuesday, Jan. 14, your Alabama Retail governmental affairs team will be there again benefiting you.*

## LEGISLATION THAT WILL REAPPEAR

### TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS II TO RESURFACE

Although the governor agreed this year to a revised version of landmark legislation to centralize Alabama's tax appeal process and separate it from the taxing governments, the Alabama Senate did not debate it during the 2013 regular session. The legislation endorsed by 26 members of the Business Associations' Tax Coalition will return in some form in 2014.

### BUSINESS LICENSE REFORM ON THE HORIZON

The Alabama Legislature could complete its effort to streamline the state's business license system in 2014. Efforts were made this year to eliminate the more than 140 existing state and county business licenses currently required in Alabama and replace them with a single flat-fee license. Alabama Retail will continue to be involved in the discussions on how best to simplify the current cumbersome system and reduce its drain on retailer resources and time.

### BACK WITH SMALL BIZ REMITTAL AFTER THE FACT

Your trade association will advocate for some 4,000 small businesses in Alabama to be able to remit sales taxes after the fact rather than in advance in 2014. The third year could be the charm for legislation that would allow retailers with monthly sales averaging \$2,500 or less to no longer have to estimate their sales tax obligation in advance each month. The current threshold of \$1,000 remains for now.

### EXPECT CHANGE IN ACCESS TO EBT BENEFITS IN 2014

Recent changes to federal regulations prohibit the use of Electronic Benefit Transfer benefits for public and private liquor stores, casinos and strip clubs and gave states until 2014 to adopt similar rules. A bill before the Alabama Legislature to make those and other changes to welfare benefits in our state did not pass in this year's session. Both the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program are loaded onto a single EBT card, which works much like a debit card and is used to purchase goods in many Alabama retail stores.

## NOW LAW

### CORPORATIONS CAN GIVE TO CAMPAIGNS WITHOUT LIMIT

As of Aug. 1, provided the U.S. Department of Justice preclears the new law, corporate campaign donors no longer have to research how many elections there have been so far in the year to determine how much they can give to state political candidates. The state's reformed campaign finance law removes the limit on corporate campaign giving.

### CHECK YOUR FIREARMS POLICY



New law, which takes effect Aug. 1, expands where Alabamians can carry firearms. The law keeps businesses in several instances from prohibiting employees or the general public from carrying guns onto business property. Employers can forbid employees to carry firearms while working, either on or off the employer's property, and businesses with certain security measures and barriers can prohibit even those with concealed carry permits from bringing their weapons inside the building. Other more open, less secure businesses, however, can't prevent a concealed

permit holder from bringing a concealed gun inside their store or business, under the new law. However, if you don't want openly carried holstered pistols inside your business, consider posting a sign stating that firearms are not permitted on the property. Employers can no longer prohibit employees who are legal gun owners from bringing their pistols or shotguns to work as long as the weapons are locked out of sight in the employee's vehicle in the company parking lot. The new law may require revisions to your company policy and postings at your business. A *Business Guide to Alabama's New Gun Law* can be found at [alabamaretail.org](http://alabamaretail.org).

### MEDICAID DELIVERY OVERHAUL FULLY IN PLACE IN 2016

By Oct. 1, 2016, health care delivery and risks for Alabama's Medicaid recipients will have fully shifted from the agency's current fee-for-service model to regional care organizations under a per-person, or capitated, model. The new delivery networks are to be in place by April 1, 2015. Medicaid recipients in nursing homes and dentists who deliver Medicaid services are not part of the initial revamped system.

# SLOWS IN 2013 SESSION

You can view this report online under [Legislative Successes](#) in the [Political Affairs](#) section of [www.alabamaretail.org](http://www.alabamaretail.org)



The governor also has created the Alabama Medicaid Pharmacy Study Commission to review Alabama Medicaid's pharmacy delivery and reimbursement system. He expects a report on the pharmacy portion of Medicaid delivery by Dec. 1 of this year. Meanwhile, the 2014 General Fund budget prevents the Alabama Medicaid Agency from asking for a pharmacy benefit manager program prior to July 1, 2014. The budget also says if Medicaid decides to go the PBM route that any such program won't be operational prior to Jan. 1, 2015

## NEW LAW COULD EASE REGULATORY BURDEN

As of July 1, Alabama state agencies are required to post information related to proposed and existing regulation reviews on their websites and to fulfill license or permit requests within 28 calendar days or notify the applicant as to why the license or permit has not been granted. The Red Tape Reduction Act requires state agencies to produce a business economic impact statement for any challenged regulation prior to its adoption. It also calls for the review of existing rules and regulations every five years.

## BUSINESSES RESPONSIBLE FOR WEIGHT INSPECTIONS



Retailers and other merchants can now use certified inspectors to ensure equipment used to weigh and/or measure is working properly. The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries will develop rules for inspections and provide decals that the registered service agents must place conspicuously on devices that pass inspection. The department will maintain a central database for the inspection reports. Any individual or company that services, repairs or reconditions weighing or measuring devices and registers with the Agriculture and Industries commissioner could be a service agent.

## LATE RESPONSES TO UNEMPLOYMENT INQUIRIES COULD COST YOUR BUSINESS

As of Aug. 1, employers who have failed to respond in a timely fashion or adequately two or more times when questioned by the state about an unemployment claim could see a decline in their unemployment compensation account. Any consequent overpayment of claims could be charged against the employers' account.

## PHARMACISTS CAN ACCEPT UNUSED, EXPIRED DRUGS

Beginning Aug. 1, pharmacists can accept unused or expired dispensed medications for the purposes of destruction only. The law continues to forbid pharmacists from paying refunds for unused prescription drugs.



## CHECK IDS FOR E-CIGARETTE SALES BY AUG. 1

As of Aug. 1, minors will no longer be able to buy, use, possess or transport electronic cigarettes in Alabama. As regulations related to this new law are developed, the Alabama Retail Association will share the guidelines with affected retail members. Starting Aug. 1, retailers should allow only those 19 and older to purchase electronic cigarettes.

## NOT LAW

## UNITARY COMBINED REPORTING DIES AGAIN

Alabama Retail again successfully opposed required unitary combined reporting for corporate income taxes, which would have been detrimental to Alabama's ability to attract new businesses and keep the ones it has.

## MAXIMUM WEEKLY JOBLESS BENEFITS REMAIN AS IS

Certain employers avoided an estimated \$13 million in additional unemployment taxes in 2015 because the Alabama Senate never considered an increase in the maximum weekly jobless benefit. The weekly benefit continues to top out at \$265. The unsuccessful legislation would have increased that amount by \$20 by the summer of 2014.

## SEVERAL FEES REMAIN SAME; INCREASES AVOIDED

Legislation that would have tied fee rates to the Consumer Price Index, a potentially punitive proposal for business, was among the bills that died in the 2013 regular session. Other bills that would have doubled filing fees for alcohol beverage licenses and increased late fees for license renewals also died.

## LEGAL ENTANGLEMENTS AVERTED

The Alabama False Claims Act, which could have escalated the filing of large, expensive and business-discouraging litigation in our state, stalled and ultimately died at the urging of the Alabama Civil Justice Reform Committee, of which Alabama Retail is a member. The untenable but popular idea of losers pay in civil litigation also died in committee.



# NEW MEMBERS



## WELCOME TO ALABAMA RETAIL

SS Family Foods LLC	Montgomery	Mobile Prosthetic Dentistry PC	Mobile	Alabama Supermarkets Inc.	Tuskegee
Ford City Shop-Rite LLC	Muscle Shoals	Animal Hospital of Mobile Inc.	Mobile	Alabama Forklift & Repair Inc.	Clanton
Event Center Downtown LLC	Opelika	Madison County Mental Retardation Board	Huntsville	Pioneer Credit Corp.	Fort Payne
WJC LLC	Boaz	Mandy Majerik	Homewood	Ice Delight LLC	Pelham
Big Brothers Frozen Foods Inc.	Huntsville	Robert Y. Griffin III DMD PC	Florence	Manci's Antique Club Inc.	Daphne
Blue Pants Brewery LLC	Madison	Freedom Printing Inc.	Lexington	Palate Pleasures LLC	Andalusia
Sunset Tanz LLC	Athens	Encore Outdoors LLC	Daphne	Scott and Taboitha Reed	Falkville
Abbeville Pharmacy LLC	Abbeville	The Feed Lot Inc.	Pike Road	Burgess Roberts L.L.C.	Birmingham
Hartford Pharmacy LLC	Hartford	Robert W. Hargraves MD PC	Arab	Acre LLC	Auburn
Monterey's of Bay Minette LLC	Bay Minette	P and Lin Inc.	Huntsville	Eufaula Wharf Express LLC	Eufaula
LI FU TE INC.	Northport	Job Network Inc.	Hoover	Lone Rider LLC	Dothan
Oakley Lawn & Garden LLC	Florence	Gillespie Tire & Automotive Service	Prattville	Woodward, Nolan & Rollings LLP	Albertville
Iron City Live Inc.	Birmingham	Moe's Original BBQ Trussville LLC	Trussville	JMF Consulting Inc.	Tuscaloosa
American Design LLC	Birmingham	Beau-Mac Enterprise LLC	Mobile	JMF Wealth Management LLC	Tuscaloosa
Tran Le Enterprises LLC	Mobile	Crossroad Trading Co. LLC	Tuscaloosa	Two Blessings Gift Boutique LLC	Montgomery
If the Shoe Fits LLC	Cullman	Ted's Andrew Jackson LLC	Huntsville	Eufaula Fun Center LLC	Ozark
Melanie McGriff	Geneva	Global Eye Care PC	Tuscaloosa	Vaani LLC	Northport
JLB Management Group LLC	Saraland	Dothan Restaurant Group LLC	Dothan	Super Sports Inc.	Tuscaloosa
Heavy Maintenance Supply Inc.	Jasper	Kent Smith	Grant	Mark A. Davis OD	Boaz
Krishna LLC	Madison	Dalton Drug Co. Inc.	Slocomb	Jackson Whaley Enterprises Inc.	Dothan
Administrative Service Providers	Birmingham	First Line Therapy Centers of AL	Mobile	Jackson Crossing Apartments, Ltd.	Enterprise
Allen Green	Selma	Arnold-Brown Metals & Supply Co.	Birmingham	Lincoln Square Apartments, Ltd.	Enterprise
Lamb & Associates Inc.	Decatur	JTT Outdoors LLC	Mobile	Madison Park Apartments, Ltd.	Enterprise
Cahaba Dermatology & Skin Health Center LLC	Hoover	EBZ Systec Inc.	Bessemer	Tarragon Hills Apartments, Ltd.	Dothan
Harmonex Inc.	Dothan	Lili P Inc.	Birmingham	Container Solutions Inc.	Athens
Mama's on the Square LLC	Rainbow City	Lerone Cedric Martin, Valerie Tolbert	Selma	Weaver Rentals LLC	Tuscaloosa
Nikoda2084 Inc.	Huntsville	Red Zone Bar and Grill Inc.	Calera	Back Home Brothers LLC	Andalusia
Soham Group LLC	Bessemer	Kayla Dougia LLC	Meridianville	American Building Supply Co. LLC	Mobile
8284 Inc.	Montgomery	James L. Sanderson DMD LLC	Hoover	Selling the Sea LLC	Dothan
Wayne's Fast Foods Inc.	Mobile	Image-1 Digital Graphics LLC	Millbrook	Therapy South - Lakeview LLC	Birmingham
Smelley Inc.	Tuscaloosa	Doughboy LLC	Decatur	Rick Hyde	Huntsville
Team TSI Corp.	Albertville	Coastal Management Group LLC	Daphne	Rick Hyde	Arab
VHSR-TIGERS LLC	Opelika	Sheila Ledbetter	Wetumpka	Candlelife LLC	Tuscaloosa
Ruan Thai Inc.	Tuscaloosa	North Alabama Science Center Inc.	Huntsville	Dr. William P. Buck, Jr., D.M.D. PC	Birmingham
Deborah King Law Office PC	Guntersville	OM SAI HSV LLC	Huntsville	Kinfolks Restaurant Group LLC	Luverne
Belle Bouquet Florist and Gifts LLC	Saraland	Summit Cleaners LLC	Hoover	Alabama World Travel Inc.	Montgomery
Shyamaji Inc.	Pinson	Interventional Pain Solutions LLC	Birmingham	Colburn Enterprises LLC	Winfield
University Station RV Resort LLC	Loachapoka	Divine Foods Inc.	Huntsville	JB Enterprise Inc.	Tuscaloosa
Gone Fishin' Catfish Restaurant Inc.	Mobile	Valor Sports Media Inc.	Birmingham	Grands of Northport Inc.	Northport
Betty McKewen	Birmingham	The Garden Room LLC	Huntsville	Hatch Shop-Rite LLC	Sheffield
John R. Goff, PhD	Tuscaloosa	Larry Allred	Cullman	Brian Prince Transmission Inc.	Cottondale
The Globe Restaurant LLC	Tuscaloosa	Frosting on the Top Bake Shoppe	Bay Minette	Daphne Pharmacy LLC	Daphne
Alliance Insurance Group LLC	Montgomery	Jesus Avianeda	Tuscaloosa	Talladega Veterinary Clinic PC	Talladega
Harbison Lock & Key Inc.	Birmingham	231 Riverside LLC	Montgomery	Snow Veterinary Hospital LLC	Mobile
McMath 3 Corp.	Gardendale	If The Shoe Fits LLC	Cullman		
Climate Control Equipment Inc.	Montgomery	Estrella LLC	Blountsville		

# MEMBERS NEWS

## AWARDS/HONORS

### Andy's Music ranks in Top 100 music merchants in nation

The National Association of Music Merchants recently named **Andy's Music Inc.** in Mobile as a Top 100 Dealer for the 11th consecutive year. Andy's Music is also in the running for NAMM's Dealer of the Year award. The brother and sister team of James Andrews and Linsey Andrews Abraham are fourth generation entrepreneurs who run the business their father started in 1977.

Their Greek great-grandfather emigrated to Mobile and opened a general store and tavern, while their grandfather owned a Mobile restaurant.

Andy's, a full-line musical instrument retailer, has been an **ARA member since 2010**.

SOURCE: National Association of Music Merchants  
WEBSITE: [andysmusic.com](http://andysmusic.com)



James Andrews and Linsey Andrews Abraham

### GQ says Harrison Limited is a shop worth visiting

*Gentleman's Quarterly* (GQ) in its April issue selected **Harrison Limited** as one of the "25 Shops Worth Traveling For." Harrison Limited was featured as No. 22. GQ said of the Mountain Brook Village menswear store: "*The southern haberdashery we all dream of but can never find, just got discovered.*" Scott Harrison Pyburn opened the store in 1991. Harrison Limited has been an **Alabama Retail member since 2006**.

SOURCE: [al.com](http://al.com)  
WEB SITE: [harrisonlimited.com](http://harrisonlimited.com)

### Smith receives honors for service, profession

In May, Decatur Rotary honored Jimmy Ray Smith, vice president of **Jimmy Smith Jewelers**, with its J. Emmett McClary Four-Way Test Award. The Rotary Four-Way Test encourages members to ask four questions before acting or speaking: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it

be beneficial to all concerned? Smith was the 1998-99 president of the Rotary Club of Decatur.

In April, Smith earned his 30-year pin as a certified gemologist appraiser from the American Gem Society. Jimmy Smith Jewelers has been an **Alabama Retail member since 1984**.

SOURCES: Decatur Rotary and American Gem Society  
WEBSITE: [jsmithjewelers.com](http://jsmithjewelers.com)



Jimmy Ray Smith with his family and Rotary award.

### Sam's ranks in Top 2 BBQ joints in Bama

**Sam's Bar-B-Q** finished as first runner-up in the first Alabama BBQ Bracket, Quest for the Best, a social media promotion of the Alabama Tourism Department's Year of Alabama Food. Sam's has been serving the Montgomery area for over 33 years with "*nothing fancy, just great Bar-B-Q.*" In the spirit of March Madness, the restaurant had to beat out 30 other barbecue joints to get to the final round in April. Sam's Bar-B-Q has been an **Alabama Retail member since 1998**.

SOURCE: The Year of Alabama Food

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### Rite Aid awards grant to Impact Alabama for children's eye care

The **Rite Aid** Foundation gave its annual \$15,000 grant to Impact Alabama, a Birmingham-based nonprofit, for FocusFirst, a program that provides vision screening for children in Head Start and lower income daycares throughout Alabama. "*Every child deserves quality healthcare, regardless of their environment or their family's ability to pay,*" said Gayle Rife, manager of The Rite Aid Foundation. Rite Aid has been an **Alabama Retail member since 1987**.

WEB SITE: [riteaid.com](http://riteaid.com)

### Walmart Foundation gives Alabama charities \$21.9 million

**Walmart** and its foundation gave Alabama charities \$21.9 million in cash and in-kind donations in the last fiscal year.

Dothan's Northside Walmart was one of 10 to receive Walmart Foundation's Foundation Golden Spark award given to a store with the most logged volunteer and service hours. The associates handed over their \$50,000 prize to the Wiregrass Area United Way Food Bank Backpack Program. Partnering with Dothan City Schools, the food bank will work to get children in need a bagged lunch to bring with them on the weekends.

The Walmart Foundation also awarded Birmingham-based nonprofit, Kid One Transport, with \$50,000 to fulfill their mission of transporting children and expectant mothers to necessary health care services throughout the state of Alabama.

In 2010, the company pledged to donate \$2 billion in cash and in-kind materials or services over five years to address hunger. Since the pledge, the company has donated more than 11.1 million pounds of food to Alabama food banks. Walmart has been an **Alabama Retail member since 1980**.

WEB SITE: [walmart.com](http://walmart.com)

## IN THE NEWS

### Knox featured in *Business Alabama*



Alabama Retail board member Denise Knox, owner and president of **Private Gallery Inc.** based in Fairhope, was featured as a "risk taker" in the June issue of *Business Alabama* magazine.

What started as a home-based business has grown into a 200-employee company with locations in six Southern states along with an Internet presence that spans the World Wide Web. Private Gallery has been an **Alabama Retail member since 2009**. Knox became an Alabama Retail board member in the same year.

SOURCE: *Business Alabama*  
WEB SITE: [shopprivategallery.com](http://shopprivategallery.com)

Please send address corrections to:

# ALABAMA **RETAIL** ASSOCIATION

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## Time to prepare for 8th annual sales tax holiday; tax-free weekend is Aug. 2-4



Alabama's eighth annual sales tax holiday for school-related items begins at **12:01 a.m. Friday, Aug. 2**, and ends at **midnight Sunday, Aug. 4**, giving shoppers the opportunity to purchase certain school supplies, computers, books and clothing free of state's four percent sales or use tax. According to the Alabama Department of Revenue records, 269 local governments notified the state of their participation, which exceeds the 2012 participation.

During the three-day period, the state's four percent sales tax is waived on:

- **Clothing** priced at \$100 or less;
- **School supplies** priced at \$50 or less;

- **Books** valued at \$30 or less; textbooks valued at \$50 or less;
- And **computers and computer equipment** with a selling price of \$750 or less.

To determine if the local government where your business is located has joined the holiday, thus adding to the savings for your customers, go to:

[alabamaretail.org/alabamasalestaxholiday/](http://alabamaretail.org/alabamasalestaxholiday/)

The website page above also contains other important information for retailers and consumers related to the tax holiday

Retailers must participate and cannot charge tax on items that are legally tax exempt during the sales tax holiday.



### Underwriter weds

ARC Underwriting Assistant **Gillian Hughes**, CISR, became **Gillian Kindred** on May 11 when she married Josh Kindred in Castries, St. Lucia. Josh is a systems administrator for the Retirement Systems of Alabama. The happy couple lives in Montgomery.

Congratulate Gillian at 334.481.0096 or [gillian@alabamaretail.org](mailto:gillian@alabamaretail.org)

