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THE OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION OF THE
ALABAMA RETAIL
ASSOCIATION

*THE VOICE
of Retailing in Alabama*

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ALABAMA RETAIL
ASSOCIATION

THE LEGISLATURE FROM A FRESHMAN PERSPECTIVE

It takes a special person to do certain professions. It takes a certain, special person to be a teacher or a nurse, for example.

It truly takes a special person to decide to run for public office. Many do so because they feel they have something to add. They want to make a difference.

To be a member of the Alabama Legislature requires many sacrifices. It is very hard and time-consuming to run a campaign. In many instances, the entire family is involved. Your life becomes an open book.

It is expensive to live in Montgomery three days a week during the session. Again, many are away from their families.

We thought it would be interesting to hear the thoughts of those who have been elected for the first time. Did they really know what they were getting into?

Following is a list of questions and answers from Senator Bradley Byrne, R-Fairhope; Representative Linda Coleman, D-Birmingham; Senator Myron Penn, D-Union Springs; and Representative Cam Ward, R-Alabaster. Senators Byrne and Penn are practicing attorneys. Representative Coleman is in real estate and marketing. Representative Ward is an attorney and works in economic development.

Was the legislative process as you imagined when running for the job? What were the surprises, both pleasant and unpleasant?

BYRNE: In general, I have been pleased with the people I work with in the Senate, particularly those in the Conservative Coalition to which I belong. There are a number of capable and properly motivated individuals on both sides of the body. I have been disappointed in the punitive attitude shown by some of the Senators in the majority coalition, although that seemed to change at the end of the Session. Most of all, I am disappointed that legislation passes without Senators (including me) having an adequate understanding of the nature of the matters on which they are voting.



Senator Bradley Byrne (R-Fairhope), District 32

L. COLEMAN: Yes and no. I did some lobbying work with the Alabama Legislature for teacher unions and other advocate groups previously, and so was aware of the process. But nevertheless, it was sometimes discouraging as a legislator because some people were disingenuous regarding their approach on certain issues. These people would sometimes turn an issue into a black and white manner that should not be a race issue at all but an issue regarding what is best for all Alabamians. I had hoped, I guess I was optimistic, that individuals involved in the process would always be looking out for the best interest of the people in the state. However, it turned out to be not so.

Sometimes things were done that were not in the best interest of the state as a whole and that was disappointing. I have learned that the legislative process sometimes hinders progress. It is important to understand the leverage that is used. I enjoy seeing the process work and want it be beneficial to all Alabamians. When it does happen you are happy. We dealt with some hard issues and I am disappointed because it was still patchwork. I believe that we have not gotten into real constitution reform and real tax reform.

PENN: Yes. Having served in Gov. Folsom's Administration, and more recently, as Bullock County Commission Chairman, I had grown accustomed to the legislative process.

Regardless of the level of government, public policy and public officials maneuver similarly, so there weren't any significant surprises.

WARD: The legislative process was enjoyable. I really liked the give and take with other legislators. I also really enjoyed working with several legislators from different backgrounds and areas of the state. The hardest thing to get used to was the physical exhaustion involved with studying and debating legislation. I never dreamed that I would spend so many nights trying to study up on such complex issues.



Senator Myron C. Penn (D-Union Springs), District 28

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

CHARLES MCDONALD



Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.

—Pericles (430 B.C.)

The 2003 Regular Session and first Special Session of the Alabama Legislature have just ended, and what an intense time it was! The Senate was log-jammed much of the Regular Session over a disagreement on procedural rules, but some fences were mended during the Special Session and a compromise was reached on key committee assignments and cloture votes.

There was also great debate over a bill to limit verdicts in lawsuits against nursing homes. A show-down ensued between the Plaintiff Trial Lawyers and the Nursing Homes over this tort reform legislation that threatened the last days of the Regular Session. The session ended without the bill passing.

History-making legislation was passed, however. In the Regular Session, the Alabama Retail Association helped mold new shoplifting laws, making it tougher on those that receive stolen property.

In the Special Session, we won a hard-fought victory in getting language added to

exempt part of the money received from defined contribution plans (e.g. 401 K plans; IRAs; KEOGH plans; and SEP/IRA plans) that many small business owners utilize for retirement savings.

This will not go into effect, however, unless the Governor's tax package passes in September. The ARA Board of Directors will be meeting with Governor Riley in July and will then decide our position on the package.

As businesspeople, I urge you to get educated on this tax package. See what the impact will be on you and your business. The Governor and his staff are traveling the state to hold town meetings to teach the public about this plan. If one is in your area, think about attending.

Taxes such as income taxes and property taxes are in the constitution and require a vote of the people to change. Sales taxes are not and the legislature can change them at any time. It is my fear that some type of hike in the sales tax will be part of "Plan B."

My friends, politics HAVE taken an interest in you.

PACT TODAY—IMPACT TOMORROW!

Kay Ivey, State Treasurer

As your State Treasurer, it is my privilege to announce the two-month annual enrollment period for Alabama's Prepaid Affordable College Tuition (PACT) Program will be August 1 through September 30, 2003.

PACT is based on a simple concept – pay today for tomorrow's tuition. The program gives parents and grandparents of infants through ninth graders the ability to purchase a contract for the pre-payment of 135 semester hours of tuition and 8 semesters of mandatory fee payments at any Alabama public college or university.

The price of the contract is based on the age/grade of the child. The younger the child, the lower the price.

The PACT Program features flexible payment options, the use of benefits at private or out-of-state institutions, tax advantages, and the ability to transfer benefits to another member of the family. PACT benefits can even be used in conjunction with scholarships.

To obtain an application or for more information, please contact my office at (800-252-7228 or 334-242-7514), or visit the Treasurer's website, www.treasury.state.al.us.

EMPLOYER TRAINING SEMINARS PLANNED FOR NINE CITIES

EMPLOYMENT LAW AND WAGE & HOUR OVERVIEW AMONG TOPICS

For just four hours of your time, you can attend an employer training seminar in a city near you, and take back valuable information that will save time and money for your business.

This year, the Department of Industrial Relations is planning seminars across the state during the month of August to address wage and hour regulations, and employment law issues. **A representative from the United States Department of Labor will give an overview of wage and hour issues, and an attorney who practices employment law will address issues faced by business owners, human resources managers, and others who need to know current law and practices in this area.**

LEARN HOW-TO:

- Reduce your workers' compensation insurance rates,
- Prepare for an unemployment compensation appeals hearing . . . and win,
- Earn tax credits by hiring certain workers,
- Manage your unemployment insurance tax,
- Use employment services in your community . . .

. . . AND MORE!

These tips, as well as other information, will be presented in 15 seminars in nine cities across the state. "These seminars are a forum for employers to learn resources and tips that impact their businesses," says Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

The entire schedule and a registration form are available on the Department of Industrial Relations' web site, <http://dir.alabama.gov>. There is also a link in the NEWS section of our web site, www.alabamaretail.org. There is a \$15.00 per person registration fee.

DO YOU KNOW OF A RETAILER THAT HAS BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR 100 YEARS OR MORE?

The Alabama Retail Association is seeking Alabama Centennial Retailers—retailers with 100 or more years in business in Alabama.

The program will recognize century-old retail businesses for their contributions to the state's past, present and future. This will be the second year of the program.

Alabama Centennial Retailers will be recognized at the Alabama Retailer of the Year Awards Luncheon at the University of Alabama on September 25 in Tuscaloosa. Each will receive a brass plaque for the outside of the business and a certificate suitable for display inside.

Retail businesses that began in 1903 or before are eligible as 2003 Alabama Centennial Retailers. Retailers whose names are submitted will be contacted and asked to provide a brief history and other information about their business.

Those honored previously as a Centennial Retailer are: **Andrews Hardware Co., Inc.**, Citronelle and Saraland; **Baers Department Store**, Calera; **Bon Secour Fisheries, Inc.**, Bon Secour; **Bromberg & Company, Inc.**, Birmingham and Montgomery; **Buettner Brothers Lumber Company**, Cullman; **Clearman's Dry**

Goods, Vernon; **Davenport and Harris Funeral Home, Inc.**, Birmingham; **Douglas Brothers Jewelry**, Troy; **E. R. Porter Hardware Co., LLC**, Dothan; **Golden Rule Barbecue**, Irondale, Hoover, Pinson, Trussville, Helena, Calera, Arab, Huntsville and Tuscaloosa;

Greenville Hardware, Greenville and Luverne; **Harrison Brothers Hardware**, Huntsville; **J. C. Penney**; **Jackson Hardware Company**, Brundidge; **Johnson Brown-Service Funeral Home, Inc.**, Valley and Lanett; **Milner-Rushing**

Discount Drugs, Florence and Muscle Shoals; **Rosenbush Furniture Co.**, Demopolis; **Sears, Roebuck and Co.**; **The Lamar Democrat**, Vernon; **The Southern Star**, Ozark; **W.E. Estes & Son**, Athens; and **Whitlock Jewelry**, Eufaula.

If you would like additional information on the Alabama Centennial Retailer Awards or would like to make a nomination by phone, please call Alison Wingate at (334) 263-5757 or (800) 239-5423. Nominations can also be made on-line in the Awards section of our website, www.alabamaretail.org by clicking on the Alabama Centennial Retailer logo. The deadline for nominations is August 15, 2003.



ALABAMA RETAIL ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES ACCEPTANCE OF RETAILER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

The Alabama Retail Association recently announced that nominations are being accepted for their annual "Retailer of the Year" Awards for the State of Alabama. The program is held in conjunction with the University of Alabama. The awards will be made during Retailing Day in September at the University.

Nominations are now being accepted. The deadline for nominations is August 1, 2003. Nominated retailers must have a physical presence in the operations of their business located in the state. Once ARA receives a nomination, the nominee will be sent a complete entry form to be used in the judging process. Completed entries will be due August 22, 2003.

Finalists will be selected in three categories by sales volume: \$2 million and under; \$2-10 million; and \$10 million and up. A Bronze, Silver and Gold Award will be presented in each category. The finalists will be invited to attend the awards luncheon on September 25 at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

If you would like additional information on the "Retailer of the Year" Awards or would like to make a nomination, please call Alison Wingate at (334) 263-5757 or (800) 239-5423. Nominations can also be made on-line in the Awards section of our website, www.alabamaretail.org by clicking on the Retailer of the Year logo.



What was your overall take of the Special Session?

BYRNE: It was an extraordinary experience. I was disappointed the Administration delivered the bills to us at the last minute (literally). But, the legislation was carefully thought through, and given the size and complexity of the package, it is remarkable it all passed largely intact, with the exception of the intangible tax.

L. COLEMAN:

Things were rushed and happening so fast. There were so many changes being made and the bills were so long and therefore difficult for legislators to be more thorough in the review of the bills. This makes it a little difficult to come back to your constituents and explain bills if you were not a member of the committee that was able to work on the bill.



Representative Linda Coleman (D-Birmingham), District 60

PENN: Very productive and historic. The tax increase/reform resulting from the Special Session clearly indicated a desire of the legislators to work with each other and with the Governor's efforts.

WARD: I thought the Special Session was the biggest test a freshman legislator could face. There were several tough votes that we had to make. I think many legislators showed a lot of courage in the way they handled themselves. I also really appreciated the input from the business community in assisting us to make informed decisions.

What do you think of the Governor's tax package?

BYRNE: I ultimately voted for the entire package – because I believe the people should have the final vote on something of this magnitude. I have remaining concerns about parts of the package, which I hope we will address later if the package passes. It would be impossible to put something together of this size and complexity and have anyone completely happy with it. I personally will vote for the package in September because the alternative is too awful to consider. But, if the package fails, the Legislature will be forced to cut essential state services in ways not seen in this state since the Great Depression.

L. COLEMAN: I have mixed emotions about the tax package. Nobody wants to pay more taxes. There are good points: the income tax level is raised for those who can least afford it; the scholarship program has been needed for a long time; and corporations are paying their fair share of taxes.

PENN: The Governor's tax proposal will be a test for the citizens of Alabama to decide the direction our state will move as we reach the crossroads of several demographic barriers (i.e. education, race, state

employment, etc.).

WARD: I think the Governor was extremely bold in his proposals. Whether you agreed or disagreed with the Governor, I think he deserves credit for disregarding political popularity for what he believed was the right thing to do. As a sponsor of one of the accountability bills, I believe this part of the reform package will have to be stressed more in order for it to have any chance of passage.

What do you think about the role of lobbyists in the legislative process?

BYRNE: Lobbyists have too much power in Montgomery because of their campaign contributions and because they know more about legislation than many individual Senators do. To some extent that is the result of inadequate staff for Senators and because we are part time. Still, as difficult as it is, we Senators need to do our homework better. There are some lobbyists who are helpful in providing a complete picture, some who provide only part of the picture, and a few who don't tell the truth. The Alabama Retail Association provides very valuable and complete information to me on important legislation. I am pleased to be working with you on these issues. I only wish other associations and lobbyists were as helpful.

L. COLEMAN: I appreciate a balance. Lobbyists have got to respect that there are constituents that legislators must represent. I try to understand the agenda of the lobbyists. Legislators have got to look at how something may affect their constituents. I believe that there must be a compromise and a balance that lobbyists must respect. I am pro-business, but I believe that there has to be a sensitivity balance and awareness on different issues.

PENN: Very helpful. On a personal account, the ARA representatives were very insightful on a local soft drink issue that was proposed in both the Regular and Special Sessions. The proposals eventually failed.

WARD: As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I felt like some of my biggest philosophical allies were the Retail Association, BCA and the District Attorneys' Association. They kept in constant contact with me regarding several important bills that I dealt with. The Alabama Retail Association was extremely helpful with the Sentencing Reform legislation. I do not think that I could have survived this session without their help.

What is your opinion of the committee structure and process?

BYRNE: The committee system is broken in the Senate. Bills are often improperly assigned, some committees rarely (or never) meet, too many bills are "walked out" of committee without a meeting at which they are discussed, committee chairs too often "bury" bills without committee consideration, significant bills are not given enough time to be debated and considered,

and the committees are too passive in that they wait for bills to come to them before addressing issues. The committee process needs to be re-thought and re-worked.

L. COLEMAN: I think it works very well.

PENN: Committees are essential to an effective legislative process so long as the committees base their determination on whether the legislation is meritorious and not on its popularity or likelihood of ultimate passage.

WARD: Committees are where the real legislative work takes place. You tend to have more experts on particular subjects which allow you to better understand the issues debated.

How do you gather information on issues of which you base your decisions? Do you find floor debate helpful in your decision making?

BYRNE: Floor debate is rarely helpful to me. I try to read all the bills before I vote on them but, given the fact we don't know what bills are up before we walk on the floor, that is difficult to do with adequate thoroughness. I try to ask more experienced senators their thoughts on bills. I do find the analyses of key groups like the Alabama Retail Association helpful.

Unfortunately, particularly at the end of a Session, too many bills move too fast for any of us to know truly what we are doing on every bill. I will be proposing to the Conservative Coalition that we make independent efforts, using Coalition Senators and resources, to better inform ourselves on the substance of bills and not just on the strategy of enacting bills we like and blocking those we don't like.

L. COLEMAN: I read the bills and talk to lobbyists to gather information. I also find that floor debate is very helpful in my decision-making. I am very cautious, however, of those lobbyists who come to me and talk to me about a bill and say, "I won't lie to you". I am not sure sometimes if they are telling me the whole truth or just part of the truth.

PENN: 1. Citizens' input; 2. Interested parties that would be directly affected by the issues; 3. Experts; 4. Other legislators (during floor debate and in other forums); 5. Association representatives.

WARD: I found that the committee process was where the most helpful information came to light. Most of the analyst reports and debates with the bill sponsors in committee were what I found helped me make a decision regarding a particular bill. Committees give you an opportunity to ask more questions. While floor debate is important, it can sometimes be more theatrical than the committee debates.



Representative Cam Ward (R-Alabaster), District 49

Alabama Retail Association Members Visit Nation's Capital to Lobby on Retail Issues

WASHINGTON, DC – Alabama Retail Association members recently visited Washington, DC to discuss retail issues with Alabama's Congressional delegation. The group met with Senator Jeff Sessions and Congressmen Robert Aderholt, Spencer Bachus, Jo Bonner, Bud Cramer, Artur Davis and Mike Rogers on issues such as bankruptcy reform, the Streamlined Sales Tax initiative, and Medicare pharmacy benefits. The Alabama Retail Association makes this annual trip each spring and next year's trip is already being planned! Members believe it is very important to keep in touch with our federal representatives and voice their opinions and concerns on issues vital to the business climate in Alabama.



ARA Chairman Bud Kitchin and Ross Ryals of Collegiate Bookstores in Montgomery at the National Retail Federation luncheon.



Mickey Gee of Taylor Company in Leeds, Jerry Beasley of Beasley Honda in Ozark and Bob Akers of Davis Printing in Montgomery at the NRF luncheon.



Dennis Wammack of Cameras Brookwood in Birmingham poses with Congressman Spencer Bachus.



ARA members wait to visit with a member of Alabama's Congressional Delegation.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

72E, Inc. Scottsboro
 A & M Peanut Shop, Inc. Mobile
 A Foodservice Supply Co., Inc. Talladega
 A+ Education Foundation Montgomery
 Airconditioning Contractors
 Supply, Inc. Birmingham
 Alabama Cardiovascular Group, P.C. Birmingham
 Alabama Grill Tuscaloosa
 Alabama Health Benefits, Inc. Gadsden
 Alabama Pet Care Clinics, Inc. Sylacauga
 Alabama Surgical Associates, PC Huntsville
 Albertville Chamber Of Commerce Albertville
 Albertville Discount Pharmacy, Inc. Albertville
 Albertville Golf & Country Club Albertville
 Alec Naman Catering, Inc. Mobile
 Alfredo's Athens
 All American Soccer Academy, Inc. . Birmingham
 All Star Express Lube, Inc. Montevallo
 All Valley D/T Services, Inc. Elkmont
 Allred Enterprises, Inc. Montevallo
 American Computer Consultants, Inc. Birmingham
 Americare Carpet Cleaning Birmingham
 Anderson Williams McKinnis
 & Co, Inc. Birmingham
 Andrea S. Lamberson, MD, LLC. Birmingham
 Arab Bar-B-Que, Inc. Arab
 Army-Navy Surplus Bessemer
 Athens Pediatrics, Inc. Athens
 Auburn Urgent Care, Inc. Auburn
 Auddie's, Inc. Helena
 Auto Leasing, Inc. Dothan
 Auto Service Huntsville
 Ayush Properties, Inc. Huntsville
 B & A Brokerage Co., Inc. Montgomery
 B & B Quick Service, LLC Ashville
 B & C Instruments, Inc. Huntsville
 B.J.'s Style Salon, Inc. Montgomery
 Bay Minette Physical Therapy
 Services, Inc. Bay Minette
 BBSMD, P.C. Alexander City
 Beasley Motor Company, LLC. Enterprise
 Beauty Bazaar Dothan
 Bendall & Company, Inc. Birmingham
 Berry's Automotive, Inc. Mobile
 Bienville Veterinary Hospital, PC Mobile
 Big "A" Tires, Inc. Montgomery
 Big Wu, Inc. Daphne
 Bijal Of Troy, Inc. Troy
 Birmingham Neuropsychology,
 LLC Birmingham
 Bleed Blue, Inc. Cantonment
 Bongiorno Italian Pizzeria
 Restaurant, Inc. Birmingham
 Brandon Car Center, Inc. Birmingham
 Brokerage Concepts, Inc. Birmingham
 Brooks Automotive Service Center, Inc. Heflin

Bryson Veterinary Clinic Wetumpka
 Burnham Company, Inc. Montgomery
 Cafe, Inc. Hartselle
 Camino Real, Inc. Madison
 Carter's Bar B Q, Inc. Elkmont
 CBP, LLC Oxford
 Cedar Ridge Golf Course, Inc. Decatur
 Cellu-net, Inc. Eufaula
 Charlene's, LLC. Mobile
 Chelsea Family Health Center, LLC Birmingham
 China House Restaurant Muscle Shoals
 Chris's Restaurant & Dairy Bar, LLC . . Pine Hill
 Citronelle Drug Company, Inc. Citronelle
 City Tune Up. Selma
 Class Act Boutique. Hampton Cove
 Clear Communications, Inc. Sylacauga
 CLPJ, Inc. Birmingham
 Cluxton Jewelry, Incorporated Athens
 Colbert County Tourism & Convention
 Bureau Tusculmbia
 Commercial Fitness Systems, Inc. Montgomery
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 Copies 2 Go, Inc. Dothan
 Country Club Of Andalusia Andalusia
 Country Corners Discount Tire, Inc. Robertsdale
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 Cross My Heart, Inc. Huntsville
 D & V, Inc. Arab
 Dad's BBQ. Anniston
 Daniel George, Inc. Birmingham
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 Destiny Marketing Albertville
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 Don's Family Barbeque, Inc. Heflin
 Dooley, Inc. Demopolis
 Doris' Galley Restaurant Haleyville
 Dothan Dental Group, P.C. Dothan
 Downing Tire, Inc. Enterprise
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 Dr. Henry S. Beeler, M.D. Cullman
 Dr. Marbourg & Associates, PC. Oneonta
 Dr. Paul F. Ketcham & Dr. Keith
 Dismukes Demopolis
 Dr. William B. Collier Enterprise
 Drayton Smith, DMD, P.C. Birmingham

Drs. Alling & Allings, P.C. Birmingham
 Drs. King & Burkhardt, P.C. Andalusia
 Drs. Mellown And Green Demopolis
 Durbin Farms Market, Inc. Clanton
 E.K. & M. Enterprises, Inc. Cantonment
 Easter's Restaurant Athens
 Economy Copier Service, Inc. Huntsville
 Economy Optical, Inc. Florence
 Eddie Woods, Jr., DMD, P.C. Birmingham
 Edgewood Frame Shop Homewood
 El Buen Futuro, Inc. Irondale
 Electric Avenue Incorporated Dothan
 Electric Sun Tanning Salon, LLC Montgomery
 Enterprising Healthcare, Inc. Birmingham
 Estetica Bis, Incorporated Theodore
 Eubank & Latham, P.C. Aliceville
 Express Nails Wetumpka
 Fagan, LLC. Birmingham
 Financial Strategies, LLC. Mobile
 First Bank of Boaz Boaz
 Florala Pharmacy, Inc. Florala
 Foley Napa Automotive & Truck, Inc. Gulf Shores
 Forestdale Eye Clinic, Inc. Adamsville
 Fred's of Ardmore, Inc. Ardmore
 Gadsden Music Company, Inc. Gadsden
 Gastroenterologists Consultants
 of Jasper, P.C. Jasper
 Gaylon R. Rogers, MD, P.C. Birmingham
 George's Candy Shop, Inc. Mobile
 Gilbert L. McDonough, MD. Enterprise
 Gillespie Tire Service. Prattville
 Gilmer's Funeral Services, Inc. Mobile
 Global Coffee Service, LLC Gardendale
 Gold's Gym of Carrollton, Inc. Carrollton
 Gospel Supply House, Inc. Tuscaloosa
 Got Beer, Inc. Birmingham
 Gray & Holt, Inc. Athens
 GRH Enterprises, Inc. Enterprise
 Gulf Shores Auto Parts, Inc. Gulf Shores
 Gym Power, LLC Birmingham
 Gyros Café LLC Birmingham
 Hamilton Drive-in Hamilton
 Hanceville Ace Hardware. Hanceville
 Hanger 67 Joppa
 Harbison's Automotive Service, Inc. . Birmingham
 Harley's Hideaway Steele
 Health Imaging Services, LLC Cullman
 Helena Family Dentistry, Inc. Helena
 HH & S Media Group, LLC. Birmingham
 Holley Farm & Garden Selma
 Holly Hills Country Club, Inc. Bay Minette
 Hometown Grocery, Inc. Cullman
 Hometown Market of Decatur, Inc. Cullman
 Horace Moon, Jr., P.C. Mobile
 Howell Restaurant Concepts, Inc. Chelsea
 Huntsville Cardiovascular Clinic, P.C. Huntsville

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS CONTINUED

I-Five Enterprises, LLC	Birmingham	Mosley's Market, Inc.	Mobile	Source One Legal Copy, Inc.	Birmingham
Il Panificio, Inc.	Montgomery	Motorcycle Sports, Inc.	Munford	South Baldwin Obstetrics & Gynecology, P.C.	Foley
Inspec-tech, Inc.	Valley Head	Moultrie Feeders Second Corp.	Alabaster	Southeast Sales & Marketing, LLC	Birmingham
Integriderm, Inc.	Birmingham	Mr. Style	Greenville	Spa Concepts, Inc.	Huntsville
Interconnect Systems, Inc.	Huntsville	MVK, Inc.	Prattville	Spanish Fort Hardware, Inc.	Spanish Fort
Internal Medicine Associates, P.C.	Opelika	My Discount Store, Inc.	Hoover	State Bank & Trust	Winfield
Internal Medicine Center, LLC.	Mobile	New World Travel, Inc.	Huntsville	Stratas Enterprises, LLC.	Montgomery
Intramicon, Inc.	Birmingham	Nolan D. Downs, DMD	Birmingham	Sun Self Storage, Inc.	Opelika
J & D Imperial Group, Inc.	Birmingham	Noni & Company, LLC	Montgomery	Sunbrite Cleaners, Inc.	Albertville
J Trabue, Inc.	Daphne	Northwest Alabama Treatment Center, Inc.	Bessemer	Surgery & Endoscopy Specialists, LLC.	Enterprise
Jackson Hardware Co., Inc.	Jackson	Nuts On Top Store #208, LLC	Birmingham	SW Imperial Group, Inc.	Birmingham
James D. Moffatt	Athens	Only A Buck	Moody	Sweat Tire Company, Inc.	Robertsdale
Jerome C. Olsen CPA PC	Mobile	Oor Wullie, Inc.	Daphne	Sylacauga Finance, Inc.	Sylacauga
JH Partners Architecture And Interiors, P.C.	Huntsville	Origin Technologies Corp.	Madison	Symmetry Resources, Inc.	Arab
Jiffy Pharmacy, Inc.	Athens	Ortiz, Inc.	Huntsville	T & AA, Inc.	Rogersville
Jimmy's Hotdog & Deli, Inc.	Hanceville	Osborne Animal Clinic	Decatur	T & S Vending, Inc.	Montgomery
Jo Rich, Inc.	Trussville	Osteen Enterprises, LLC.	Eufaula	T & T Rental, Inc.	Irondale
Joe's Double J Club, Inc.	Birmingham	Paper Moon, LLC	Montgomery	Talk! Talk!, LLC	Birmingham
John S. Parker MD.	Birmingham	Parkhurst & Norvell, CPAs.	Florence	Tavern On The Summit, LLC.	Louisville
Joyce's Diner	Bay Minette	Pay Master Of Alabama, Inc.	Birmingham	Terry Stephens, Inc.	Vernon
JR Enterprises, LLC	Birmingham	Personal Training Systems Franchise Corp.	Birmingham	The 50's Corner, LLC.	Arab
Jubilee Ace Home Center, Inc.	Fairhope	Petrie's	Mobile	The Brick Oven	Huntsville
Kaechele Motors, Inc.	Elberta	Physerv, LLC.	Alexander City	The Chef's Table, LLC	Leeds
Karen Clements, DMD, P.C.	Tuscaloosa	Physicians Clinic, Inc.	Hamilton	The Cove At Blue Creek, LLC	Dadeville
Karen Tucker Catering, LLC.	Autaugaville	Pinnacle Optical, LLC	Birmingham	The Jazz Hall of Fame of Alabama, Inc.	Birmingham
Kathy's Kountry Kitchen	Dothan	Pipe's Pit BBQ, Inc.	Anniston	The Laundry Mat, LLC.	Birmingham
Keith A. Dillard, DMD	Pelham	Plant Automation, Inc.	Jacksonville	The Parlour Hair Designers, Inc.	Northport
KEM Enterprises, Inc.	Cantonment	Plaza Bar B Q, Inc.	Guin	The Picture Place	Monroeville
L & D Hotel, Inc.	Dothan	Pramukh Swami, LLC	Calera	The Pressure Company, Inc.	Alexander City
Lamberth & Lamberth, Inc.	Alexander City	Pregno Firestone, Inc.	Montgomery	The Quickprint Shop	Florence
Landerson, LLC	Dothan	Pricare, P.A.	Alexander City	The Yankee Baker Company, Inc.	Cullman
Laramie, Inc.	Birmingham	Primary Care Medicine, LLC	Montgomery	Therasport, Inc.	Rainsville
Lazenby Animal Clinic	Florence	Protech Manufacturing, Inc.	Opelika	Tires Plus.	Huntsville
Magnolia Title Services, Inc.	Birmingham	Quality Cleaners	Jackson	Trussville Automart, Inc.	Birmingham
Mahavir, Inc.	Dothan	Quigley's Tea Room & Catering.	Jasper	Tucker's Garage, LLC	Demopolis
Mark A. Hendrix, DMD, Inc.	Hartselle	RAJ, Inc.	Opp	Twice Baked Café, LLC.	Mobile
Martinez Mexican Food, Inc.	Gardendale	RD2, Inc.	Tuscaloosa	Two Dogs & A Bone, Inc.	Arab
Masters OK Tire Store, Inc.	Piedmont	Reagan Reporters, LLC	Montgomery	Urology Associates Of Mobile, P.A.	Mobile
May & May, Inc.	Birmingham	Reeves Auto Sales, Inc.	Athens	USRM Farmhouse Restaurant, LLC	Tuscaloosa
McHan Produce, Inc.	Hartselle	Research Strategies, Inc.	Mobile	Vestavia Billard Club, Inc.	Birmingham
McKinney's Auto Repair	Andalusia	Rockabilly's Smokehouse, Inc.	Huntsville	Vimal of Troy, Inc.	Troy
Mel's Meats	Monroeville	Rockin Ribs, Inc.	Mobile	W. Douglas Logan, CPA, P.C.	Athens
Merchants Inventory Service, Inc.	Clay	Rohit, Inc.	Troy	Warehouse Bistro, LLP.	Opelika
Mikata of Auburn, LLC	Auburn	RS Enterprises, LLC.	Birmingham	Watson Enterprises	Oak Hill
Mike & Ed's BBQ of Auburn, Inc.	Auburn	Rural Health Medical Program, Inc.	Selma	WCS Enterprises, Inc.	Camden
Mild, Inc.	Birmingham	Rush Plans, Inc.	Mobile	Wellness Health And Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Homewood
Milton's Honda & Acura Shop, Inc.	Theodore	S & S Enterprises, LLC.	Boaz	West End Grill, LLC	Huntsville
Mind Volt, Inc.	Athens	Saidutt, Inc.	Opp	Whitlocks General Store & Cafe	Cullman
Mitchell Oral Surgery, LLC	Birmingham	Satsuma Enterprises, LLC.	Auburn	William D. Powell, III, DMD	Birmingham
MKE, Inc.	Cantonment	Scott Tire & Equipment Co, Inc	Russellville	Wok And Roll, Inc.	Birmingham
Monroeville Home Video	Monroeville	Shaddix Country Mall	Cullman	Woodstock Restaurant	Woodstock
Montclair Enterprises, Inc.	Birmingham	Shakti, Inc.	Anniston	WPM, Inc.	Montgomery
Montgomery Lock And Key, Inc.	Montgomery	Siam Kitchen, Inc.	Montgomery	Xtreme Car Toyz, LLC	Birmingham
Montgomery Otolaryngology, LLC	Montgomery	Simmons Sporting Goods Company, Inc.	Bessemer		

ARA PRESENTS EXAMINER OF THE YEAR AWARD

EXAMINER OF THE QUARTER AWARDED TO SAME INDIVIDUAL

The Alabama Department of Public Safety and the Alabama Retail Association have teamed up to stamp out Driver License Fraud. Identification fraud is one of the fastest growing forms of robbery, costing financial institutions, businesses, government, and consumers an estimated 24 billion dollars annually.

On Friday, March 19, 2003 the Alabama Retail Association presented the *Examiner of the Year Award* for excellence in recognizing fraudulent activity. This special award is given to those who go the extra mile to fight deceptive criminals and prevent fraud. This year's recipient is **Jennifer Stiles** of the reinstatement office in the Huntsville Driver License Office. In determining the winner a point system is used, with five points allocated for each misdemeanor arrest and ten points for each felony arrest. Stiles received **824 points** last year.

An award is also given quarterly to the individual with the most points over the past three-month period. Ms. Stiles also won the *Examiner of the Quarter Award* for the first quarter of 2003. Due to her excellent detection skills and hard work, Stiles was recently promoted to Driver License Specialist.

"People just don't realize how important a driver's license is when it comes to security," says Colonel James Alexander, Public Safety Director. "A driver license used to be just that. Now it's like a national identification card used to verify whether you are who you say you are, and here in Alabama we want you to prove it."

Without question, the unique partnership between the Alabama Department of Public Safety and the Alabama Retail Association is



ARA Chairman Bud Kitchin presents the Examiner of the Year Award to Driver License Specialist Jennifer Stiles.

saving thousands of lost retail dollars by preventing individuals from obtaining false identities, or stealing some innocent individual's identity, and using this identification to obtain checking and credit accounts for unlawful purposes.



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