

# THE BUSINESS ADVOCATE

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## Ready to Lead

The Business Council of Alabama board of directors has elected Foley businessman Thomas M. “Tommy” Lee as the 2016 chairman.

Lee succeeds 2015 BCA Chairman Marty Abroms, president and managing shareholder of Abroms & Associates, P.C., in Florence. Abroms becomes immediate past chairman.

Lee, who was the BCA’s first vice chairman, was elected at the BCA’s 2015 annual meeting on Dec. 4 at the Harbert Center in Birmingham. The BCA board also elected other officers, new board members, and approved the 2016 State Legislative Agenda.

Lee, president and CEO of Vulcan Inc., an aluminum manufacturer, has been with Vulcan for 30 years. Prior to joining Vulcan, he was employed by Alabama Power Co. for eight years as a commercial sales engineer.

Second Vice Chairman Jeffrey F. Coleman, president and CEO of Coleman World Group in Midland City, was elected to succeed Lee as first vice chairman.

Perry Hand, president and CEO of Volkert Inc., of Mobile, was elected second vice chairman to succeed Coleman.

Fournier J. “Boots” Gale III, senior vice president and general counsel of Regions Financial Corp., was reelected BCA legal counsel, and Charles Nailen, president/owner BBG Special Foods Inc. in Dothan, was reelected treasurer.

Mike Kemp, president and CEO of Kemp Management Solutions in Birmingham, was elected secretary, succeeding Philip C. Dotts, principal, Public Financial Management Inc., in Huntsville.

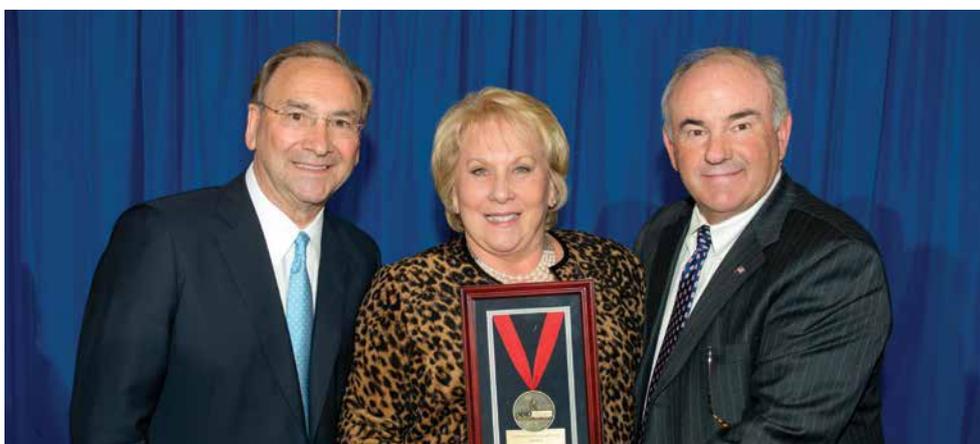
Birmingham attorney Liz Huntley was the BCA annual meeting’s dynamic and inspirational speaker. She is the

**COVER:** Foley businessman Thomas M. “Tommy” Lee is the Business Council of Alabama’s chairman for 2016. The BCA board of directors elected Lee at the Dec. 4 annual meeting in Birmingham. Lee is president and CEO of Vulcan Inc. He succeeds 2015 BCA Chairman Marty Abroms, President and Managing Shareholder of Abroms & Associates, P.C., in Florence, who becomes Immediate Past Chairman.

**TOP:** The boards of directors of the Business Council of Alabama and the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama met for their annual luncheon at the Harbert Center. The Partnership between the BCA and CCAA is going strong after 12 years.

**MIDDLE:** South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce President Donna Watts was the recipient of the BCA’s prestigious Thompsonian Leadership Award. BCA president and CEO William J. Canary said Watts embodies the six principles of the award that is named for 2003 BCA Chairman Mike Thompson who initiated the formal partnership between the BCA and the CCAA.

**BOTTOM:** BCA president and CEO William J. Canary participates in the BCA executive committee meeting during the BCA’s annual meeting in Birmingham.



author of *More Than a Bird* that chronicles her rise from Alabama poverty to success in life and the legal profession.

Huntley, a passionate advocate of children and families, is president and



co-founder of Project Gear, a non-profit organization that works with at-risk youth to remove barriers to learning.

BCA annual meetings provide the opportunity to recognize Alabamians who have contributed to business advancement in the political and community arenas.

South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce President Donna Watts and 2014 BCA Chairman Fred McCallum were honored with awards. Watts was the recipient of the BCA’s prestigious Thompsonian Leadership Award. She was Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama chair in 2009.

Canary said Watts embodies the six principles of the award: challenge the status quo, seek advice from individuals outside your inner circle, dream the impossible, work with others who have the ability to think outside the box, be humble yet decisive, and be honest.



**TOP:** Former Governor Bob Riley, right, presents 2014 BCA Chairman Fred McCallum with the Governor Bob Riley “Building a Better Alabama Award” during the BCA’s annual meeting. McCallum is president of AT&T Alabama.

**BOTTOM:** Liz Huntley was the BCA annual meeting’s speaker. Huntley, a tireless advocate of children and families, is president and co-founder of Project Gear.

“Donna is truly a visionary who continues to ‘fly the flag’ for the continued Partnership between the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama and the Business Council of Alabama,” Canary said.

The award is named after the 2003 BCA Chairman Mike Thompson. “He is visionary who initiated the formal partnership between the Chamber of Commerce Association and the Business Council of Alabama,” Canary said.

Canary and former Governor Bob Riley presented McCallum, president of AT&T Alabama, with the Governor Bob Riley “Building a Better Alabama” Award, which recognizes those who work tirelessly to promote manufacturing and economic development in Alabama.

“Education improvement and economic development that go hand in hand have been at the top of Fred’s agenda during his professional life and which continued during his service to the BCA,” Canary said. “He worked diligently to ensure that they remain major issues for business to ensure that Alabama can meaningfully compete.”

McCallum guided the BCA’s agendas in 2013 when he served as ProgressPAC chairman and BCA First Vice Chairman. In 2014 he served as BCA chairman and helped grow the

BCA’s efforts to unite business and education.

“You have earned this award for what you do,” Canary told McCallum,

McCallum also promoted The Partnership between local chambers of commerce and the BCA through the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama, which unite grass-roots and statewide business associations. **TBADV**



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*The Business Advocate is published by the Business Council of Alabama, Alabama’s foremost voice for business. The BCA is a non-partisan statewide business association representing the interest and concerns of three-quarters of a million working Alabamians through its member companies, and is Alabama’s exclusive representative to the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. For information on becoming a member of BCA, contact Elaine Fincannon, 334.240.8749, or elaine@bcatoday.org. For more information, visit bcatoday.org.*



## Alliance for Alabama's Infrastructure

OUR ROADS. OUR FUTURE. OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

### THE ALLIANCE FOR ALABAMA'S INFRASTRUCTURE LAUNCHES

On January 5, 2016, members of the Alabama business community, chambers of commerce, industry associations, community groups and concerned citizens joined together to form the Alliance for Alabama's Infrastructure (AAI).

The Alliance is a grassroots advocacy coalition that promotes financially-responsible investment in Alabama's roads and infrastructure. The Alliance monitors the needs of Alabama's transportation network, communicates those needs to the public and identifies opportunities to make immediate, critical improvements. By repairing and maintaining existing roads and committing to new priority projects, the Alliance aims to protect Alabama's citizens, generate economic growth and improve quality of life.

The members of AAI are driven by the following challenges:



"We must find a way to manage our infrastructure and find long-term solutions for transportation-funding challenges that currently lead to dangerous road conditions, increased traffic congestion and potential employers questioning our ability to transport their goods," said Jim Page, Alliance member and president and CEO of the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce.

If additional investments are made in Alabama's roads and bridges, AAI believes that cities and counties across the state will experience great benefits.

"By focusing on statewide infrastructure needs, we have an opportunity to protect ourselves and our children, invest in our future and make Alabama a better place to live," said Billy Canary, president and CEO of the Business Council of Alabama. "It is the responsible thing to do."

Currently, AAI includes members from the Business Council of Alabama, the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama, the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, the Greater Shelby Chamber of Commerce, the Birmingham Business Alliance, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, the Alabama Trucking Association, the Alabama Road Builders Association, the Economic Development Association of Alabama, the Alabama Association of County Commissioners, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Alabama, the Associated General Contractors, the Coalition for Regional Transportation, the Association of County Commissions, the Alabama Asphalt Pavement Association and the Alabama Concrete Industries Association.

"The Alliance continues to add members from every corner of our state to represent various segments of Alabama – all cohesively united with the intention of improving Alabama's infrastructure for the greater good," Canary said.

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More information on AAI can be found at [www.alabamaroads.org](http://www.alabamaroads.org).