

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



On behalf of your board of directors it is my hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and took some time to reflect on the many blessings that have been bestowed on Madison County.

My prayer is that all of us involved in MCBL will have a safe and prosperous 2013, starting with the soon-to-be-unveiled Strategic Plan of Madison County.

Through the initiative of our Board of Supervisors, along with the investment of the private sector of the Madison County Foundation, the ground work of a plan has been established. This plan, over the next few weeks, will be announced. It will involve a considerable effort of many volunteers to begin marching toward the generalized goals and objectives and “drilling down” to specific goals to be achieved over the next ten years. It will be presented as a ten-year plan. As committees are formed and put into action, with specific projects, this plan should insure that Madison County will charge

into the next decade continuing to be the leader in our state when it comes to quality of life and other issues.

This strategic plan should not be taken lightly. This will be a plan that will require all involved to stay focused and participate fully. I encourage all to try to make the time to be involved. MCBL’s role will be a support mechanism for MCEDA, our “Mother Ship.” MCEDA has been tasked with 17 “strategic actions” to be achieved which will take a sufficient effort by not only MCEDA, but by MCBL in order to carry our participation home to success. As I understand the plan, the “Transformation Committee” will be somewhat of the central clearing house for specific committee assignments and duties. I have no doubt that over the next few weeks there will be a number of meetings of volunteers to establish each committee’s direction as the Board of Supervisors are keenly in tune to see that this plan is implemented and that Madison County sees real appreciable success.

Together, we’ll move Madison County forward in 2013!

DICK HUTCHINSON, CHAIRMAN
Madison County Business League

-- 2013 UPCOMING EVENTS --

JOINT MCBL/MCEDA ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMMITTEE LUNCHEON MEETING

Wednesday, January 16, 2013, 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MCEDA office

Special Guest Speakers Slade Redwine and Rob Burnham presenting Operation JumpStart. Reservation required.

JOINT MCBL/MCEDA HEALTH/WELLNESS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEES LUNCHEON MEETING

Wednesday, January 23, 2013, 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Adams & Reese

MS Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney will discuss details of the insurance exchange.

2013 LEAGUE & LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, February 20, 2013, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Mississippi State Capitol Room # 113

Luncheon Reception honoring the MS State Legislature. Lt. Governor Tate Reeves is our special guest speaker

2013 MADISON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Tuesday, March 26, 2013, 7:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(2) Of the best and brightest juniors from each of our public and private high schools will be selected to participate in this one career day highlighting MCBL members.

SPRING 2013 FORUM

May 2013 (TBA)

PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chairman.....1
 2013 Spring Events.....1
 2013 Platinum Level Sponsors.....1
 Government Relations Committee Report....2
 Excel By 5 Update.....3
 Excel By 5 Coalition Members.....3
 UMMC, Academic Health Science Center....4
 2012-13 MCBL Board of Directors.....4

VIEW THE MADISON COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN ONLINE (madisoncountybusinessleague.com)

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT



The 2013 Legislative Session gaveled in at noon on January 8, with lawmakers convening in the Capitol for three months of wrangling over some tough issues.

It must seem like an eternity since January 2012, when they last gathered.

Consider: since January 2012, new legislative redistricting plans have passed, been approved by the Department of Justice, and the lawsuit asking a federal court to redraw the lines has been dismissed. No new elections until 2015, when Madison County will have a new House seat, and more Senate influence.

Charter schools, a proposal aimed at meaningful education reform, died in the House Education Committee. A bond bill, similar to bond bills passed as a matter of course in prior years, also died, in the Senate, after the Lt. Governor drew a line on the size of the proposed debt measure last year.

Last Session, one could have reasonably predicted that the Supreme Court would overturn Obamacare, and the voters would overturn Obama himself. Neither happened.

And, (some would argue as a result) the economy continues barely to limp along, in a recovery that feels more like a recession. The fiscal cliff did not happen, but neither did a real solution to the real problem in DC: spending.

All these things will impact this Session with a sense of foreboding, and *deja-vu*. The biggest issues this year will be echoes from last.

Charter schools appear to be on a course for passage this year. Since the proposal died last Session, pressure has been building to pass a bill. Governor Phil Bryant has developed a comprehensive set of reform proposals as well, making education an even greater focal point than usual. And, the change in school ratings from an incomprehensible set of subjective labels to a straightforward A–F grade will fuel the charter debate, as more Mississippians come to understand that the old “Successful” rating really only meant a C-level school.

Legislators will feel more organized pressure from the outside. Pro-charter group Better Education for Mississippi (“BE4MS”) just released polling data showing strong public support for charter schools, even in places like Rankin and DeSoto Counties,

whose superintendents resisted the measure last year. With a year to build momentum and strengthen policy proposals, conservative education reformers may have a stronger hand this year. Madison schools would not have been impacted by last year’s bill; this year’s proposal will bear watching.

2013 also becomes the year of reckoning for Obamacare in the states. Expanding Medicaid eligibility to Mississippians at or below 138% of the poverty level would bring an estimated 300,000 more people into the Medicaid program, with a million covered in total.

For the first three years, the federal government would pay 100% of the expansion cost. By 2020, the federal share goes down to 90%. According to an October 2012 study prepared by economist Bob Neal, Ph.D., for the University Research Center, the cost to Mississippi for 2014–2025, would run as high as \$556 million.

Some are arguing that Medicaid expansion would actually yield positive economic growth for Mississippi. In November, I chaired a meeting of the Madison County Business League Health/Wellness and Government Relations Committees, during which Dr. Alton Cobb, retired state health officer, and Dr. Phil Pepper, former state economist, discussed the supposed benefits of Medicaid expansion.

According to Cobb and Pepper, who used the findings of the same October study, Mississippi can hardly afford not to expand Medicaid. Mississippi would receive billions in “free” federal dollars. They estimate that by 2025, Medicaid expansion would create 9,000 jobs in the state, and actually add to the general revenue tax coffers.

Theoretically, an influx of billions of dollars could stimulate the economy. But the economic “benefit” does not account for inefficiencies (i.e., waste) in government spending, or the strain on Mississippi’s health care providers. We already have a shortage of qualified providers. 300,000 more people demanding “free” health care may strain the system to the breaking point. No one really knows how many people will end up on government health care rolls. Obamacare’s track record of estimating costs is so far abysmally inaccurate. Even Cobb and Pepper concede that the marginal upside is dependent on the federal government covering 90% of the cost.

Governor Phil Bryant has said he is opposed to expanding Medicaid because the state cannot afford it. Legislators must now decide whether we can.

Look for a bond bill to pass this year, but look for it to be a more modest one. After blocking agreement on a bigger bond bill last Session, Lt. Governor Tate Reeves has recently said he would support a bond package “reasonable and rational in size” focused on long-term capital needs. Reeves has said he would oppose bonding for things that should be funded through the normal appropriations process. With some public support for reducing debt and spending, Reeves’ position, which got attention last year, will likely influence the outcome this Session.

Finally, another issue of interest to Madison County is getting some buzz, though it may not result in legislation. Quietly, some leaders are talking about highway funding and an increase of the state’s gas tax. Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall has noted that the cost of construction and maintenance has steadily increased, while the gas tax used to fund those expenses has stayed the same for over twenty-five years.

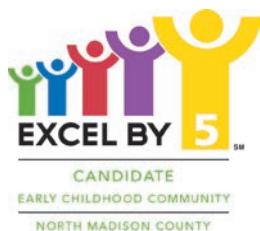
Mississippi’s tax is 18.8 cents per gallon on gasoline and diesel, with 0.4 cents going to an environmental protection fee. In the three Coast counties, there is an additional 3 cents per gallon seawall tax. The gas tax is a “flat” tax; the tax is the same 19¢ regardless of the price of fuel.

The chance of an increase this year is slim; Governor Bryant has expressed opposition, as have key legislators. Beyond opposition to higher taxes, there are other thorny issues. Should alternative “green energy” vehicles become more common, and gas consumption decrease, the way roads are funded will have to change. For counties like Madison, where infrastructure is a key need to sustain growth, road funds will likely remain a key issue this Session, and beyond.

CORY WILSON is the Chairman of the MCBL/MCEDA Joint Government Relations Committee and an attorney with Heidelberg, Steinberger, Colmer & Burron, P.A. (Silver Member of the MCBL)

EXCEL BY 5 COALITION MEMBERS

NORTH MADISON COUNTY EXCEL BY 5 COALITION UPDATE



In the summer of 2011, community stakeholders made a commitment to future generations of Madison County when they committed to implementing Excel by 5 – the innovative program that helps communities better prepare their young children for success in school. Excel by 5 is a first-of-its-kind in the United States, and is implemented solely in our great State of Mississippi. We have made great strides in implementing Excel by 5; most notably in completing various needs assessments, organizing and forming work groups for the various emphasis areas of Excel by 5 and by capitalizing on the willingness of various community partners to support the education of children during their most formative years--birth to age five.

During the last year and a half, North Madison County Excel by 5 is actively completing the required components for recognition as a certified Excel community and is currently in midst of the “candidate” process. The North Madison County Excel by 5 chapter, which is composed of the board members, steering committee, as well as, volunteers and organizations throughout the community, are working diligently to achieve the Excel by 5 certification for the children of North Madison County! The certification process is meant to identify available resources and existing best practices to help Excel By 5 Early Childhood Communities reach the goal of having all of their children ready to learn when they start school at age five. Once completed, the North Madison County Excel by 5 will be certified as a community where young children can thrive through the support of their parents, educators, and community members.

In working toward certification, North Madison County Excel By 5 has set forth a variety of standards involving parent training, community participation, child care and health to help this community focus on supporting young children and their families. A team of educators, community leaders, and parents are working together to help make North Madison County an even more nurturing, safer environment for our children. The North Madison County Excel by 5 team includes many members who add their own special knowledge and talent to this endeavor.

Excel by 5 has sponsored multiple events in the local community with the intention of helping young children and their parents prepare for school during the 2012 year. The largest event of the year was the education summit held in Canton, MS. This event was a huge success, with hundreds of children learning about many different aspects of everyday life in a community. The educational summit was also a learning opportunity for parents and adults. Excel by 5 of North Madison County has also sponsored a health fair, as well as, a town hall meeting where citizens and community leaders came together to share their thoughts and ideas for the needs of the community’s children.

In closing, I would like to emphasize why early childhood education and learning should be important to every parent, educator, and community. Studies have proven time and again that the earlier parents, educators, and communities start to expose their young children to learning opportunities, the better they will perform in kindergarten, elementary school, and high-school.

CONSIDER THESE FACTS:

- ★ Third grade reading scores are used to predict the number of prison cells that will be needed in 10 to 12 years.
- ★ Experiences in the first three years of a child’s life contribute significantly to the structure of the brain.
- ★ The brain is already ¼ of its adult size at birth.

The North Madison County chapter of Excel by 5 is well on its way of becoming an Excel by 5 certified community! We appreciate the support of our community and look forward to sharing our progress with you in the months to come.

MCBL AND MCEDA ALONG WITH UNITED WAY OF THE CAPITAL AREA ARE CO-LEAD AGENCIES FOR NORTH MADISON COUNTY EXCEL BY 5



DR. NANCY NEW is the chairman of the MCBL/ MCEDA Joint Education Committee and Chairman of the North Madison County Excel By 5 Steering Committee. She is also Executive Director of the New Summit Schools. (Silver Member of the MCBL)

Superintendent Dwight Luckett
Canton Public Schools

**Superintendent
Dr. Ronnie McGehee**
Madison County Schools

Mayor William Truly
City of Canton

Dr. Nancy New
New Summit Schools/MCEC

Headmaster Curt McCain
Canton Academy

Reverend Michael K. Barth
Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Wade Harris, Jr.
Nissan North America, Inc.

Dr. Mary Sims Johnson
MCCSA

Nicole Kemp
Levi Strauss & Company

Lauren McGraw
McGraw Gotta Go

Roylean Payton
Headstart

Betty Lou Pigg
Madison County Schools

Karen Robison
MadCaap, Inc.

Charlotte Wilson
Madison County School teacher

Dr. Pollia Griffin
Madison County Schools

Veda Archie
Canton Public Schools

Kimberly Dowe-Davis
Madison County School District

Lenita Knight
MCEDA

Ira Murray
United Way of the Capital Area

Monica Daniels
United Way of the Capital Area

-- MEMBER SPOTLIGHT --

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER (UMMC): THE STATE'S ONLY ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



UMMC has a three tiered mission: education, research, and patient care. Education is the primary reason for existing, and the driver of all of the research and patient-care activities. UMMC is the leader in training healthcare professional for the state. It is the sole public source for baccalaureate and professional degrees in disciplines such as medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, occupational therapy and dental hygiene. There are approximately 2,800 students enrolled in 28 degree programs offered through the 5 professional schools, while an additional 575 residents and fellows are receiving graduate medical training. The 5 schools include: School of Medicine; School of Nursing; School of Dentistry; School of Health Related Professions; School of Graduate Studies; and, the School of Pharmacy. Education is our "Investment".

From world-renowned studies on heart disease, diabetes and hypertension to a human physiology program used by NASA, researchers at UMMC are unraveling the diseases that affect Mississippians, creating new, high-tech jobs and injecting tens of millions of dollars in the state's economy. As one of the missions at UMMC, research keeps the faculty and health-care providers on the cutting edge of their fields. It also deepens scientific knowledge and creates treatments that improve the lives of

Mississippians. UMMC has place strategic focus on the following research programs:

- ★ Center for Excellence in Cardiovascular-Renal Research
- ★ Cancer Institute
- ★ Center for Psychiatric Neuroscience
- ★ The Obesity, Metabolism and Nutrition Center
- ★ The Memory Impairment and Neurodegenerative Dementia (MIND) Center
- ★ Mississippi Institute for Geographic Minority Health
- ★ Women's Health Research Center
- ★ The ACT Center for Tobacco Treatment Education and Research
- ★ The Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities

RESEARCH IS OUR "QUEST".

UMMC combines 4 on-campus hospitals as a single, integrated health-care system which includes Holmes County Hospital and Clinics in Lexington, MS. The 4 campus-base teaching hospitals and their clinical staffs serve as a 722-bed diagnostic and referral center for the entire state. The 4 hospitals include: The University Hospital, for adult, non-critical patients; the Conerly Critical Care Hospital; the Wiser Hospital for Women and infants; and, the Batson Children's Hospital.

Inpatient admissions at the Jackson campus in the most recent year were more than 30,674 patients. Visits to the emergency department numbered almost 120,783. Outpatient visits totaled more than 490,260.

PATIENT CARE IS OUR "COMMITMENT".

UMMC serves as one of the largest economic powerhouses in Mississippi. With over 9,000 employees and a \$1.4 billion annual budget, it is the second largest employer in the state. UMMC's economic activity generates more than 19,301 direct and indirect jobs and \$281 million in local, state and federal taxes.

The University of Mississippi Medical Center is a culture of high achievers and leaders and most of all – servants. UMMC exists to serve the citizens of Mississippi and as the only health sciences center it is actively engage in outreach efforts to touch the community, state and the world.

DAVID L. POWE, Ed.D. is *Chief Administrative Officer at the Office of the Vice Chancellor and a Professor of Health Sciences at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (Gold Member of the MCBL)*

2012-13 MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE BOARD MEMBERS



STANDING (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT):

Jan Collins, *Madison County Business League*
Executive Director

Todd Burwell, *G. Todd Burwell, P.A.*
Past Chairman/Advisory

Buck Covington, *Weichert, Realtors; Covington Group*
Director

Bill Guion, *BankPlus*
Director/Past Chairman

Sidney Allen, *Butler Snow*
Director

James Pettis, *Wyatt Tarrant & Combs*
Director

Scott Parrish, *Mc&F Bank*
Director

Tim Coursey, *MCEDA*
Executive Director

SEATED (LEFT TO RIGHT):

Sarah Lofton, *Lofton Advertising*
Immediate Past Chairman

Sherry Chance, *Tulane University*
Vice Chairman

Dick Hutchinson, *MCEDA*
Chairman

John Almond, *Allen & Hoshall*
Secretary-Treasurer

Jennifer Sinclair, *St. Dominic Health Services*
Director

NOT PICTURED

Lanny Slaughter, *MCEDA*

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

John Bell Crosby,
Madison County Board of Supervisors
President

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*