



2008

## Board of Directors

Donna Givens, Chair	David Horton, Past Chair
Dave Rauch, Vice Chair	Mark Berson
Hiram Templeton, Secretary	Larry Merrihew
Peggy Nelson, Treasurer	Don Robinson
Joe Allen	Rob McElroy
Darrellyn Bender	Stan Szapiel
Joe Bullock	Larry Taylor
Anthony Kaiser	Randy Wood
Greg Kennedy	


### Ex-Officio

Commissioner Wayne Gruenloh

Commissioner Frank Burt

Former Mayor Clark Cathey

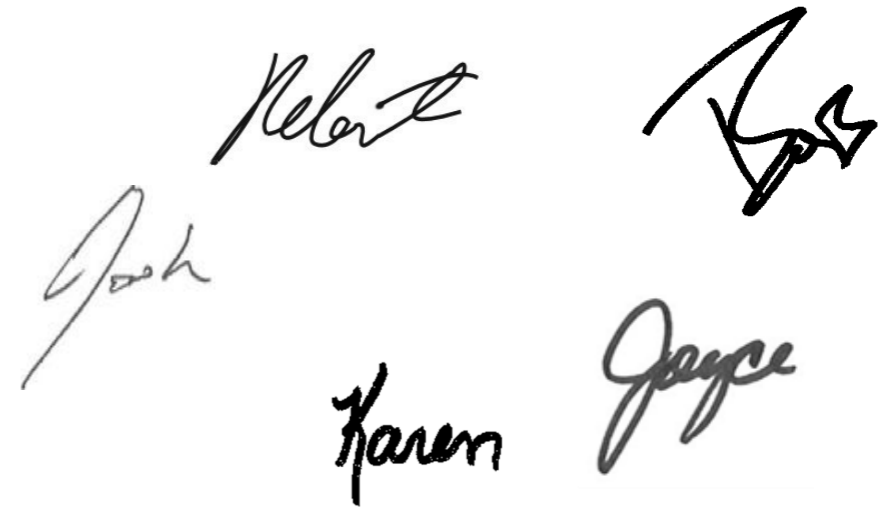
Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance  
P. O. Box 1340, 22070 Hwy. 59, Suite 101, Robertsdale, AL 36567  
(251) 947-2445 [www.baldwineda.com](http://www.baldwineda.com) [info@baldwineda.com](mailto:info@baldwineda.com)



## Season's Greetings

from

## Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance



Handwritten signatures of board members: Robert, Josh, Karen, Jayce, and another signature.





2008  
YEAR END REPORT



Wow, what an interesting year it has been.

In 35 years of being heavily involved in economic development activities, I have never seen a year quite like this one: from fast growth and worries about inflation to talk of deep recession and even depression and deflation; from a fairly balanced power in Washington to a huge majority for the Democratic Party; from a local win for the Northrop Grumman/EADS KC-45 Tanker Project to a very uncertain outcome, and on and on.

Remarkably, our industrial and distribution recruitment successes have held up well. But there has been a huge shift in the type projects—from heavily construction oriented to green energy/ecological (bio, recycling) and/or aviation oriented projects.

The benefits of partnering with our neighbors in Mobile are beginning to show up as we have landed companies with ThyssenKrupp connections and companies needing great access to the Port of Mobile and its new containerization capabilities. BCEDA has aggressively marketed with Mobile in aviation, distribution, and steel processing related projects and will continue to do this in 2009.

Thanks to you, our Investors, we have been able to update virtually all site selection data on our website. Andy Wilcoxon, a Fairhope resident and USA student, is presently interning with us in a research, website position. Site location consultants tell us that our website is one of the best. Check it out at [www.baldwineda.com](http://www.baldwineda.com) and you will be amazed at the data we offer.

The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama (EDPA) has upgraded its information capabilities as well, providing us access to more current, detailed demographics on a “smaller than county” basis, which can be very helpful to those looking for information related to retail, service and other non-manufacturing businesses. And we are currently exploring another source of possibly even more detailed data and GIS related information to see if the cost versus the benefit is positive.

Value added is the approach we are taking to our organization. Our mission is to grow and diversify the economy of Baldwin County and its communities in order to protect the financial integrity of government and allow our business partners to thrive and profit in good times and bad.

My guess is that Baldwin County will again be recognized as a Top 10 Micropolitan in 2008 for new industry, distribution, and professional recruitment. Challenges await us in 2009 but working together we will move forward.

Thank you again for your help and support and please let us know when we can help you in any way.

Robert Ingram  
President/CEO



2008  
YEAR END REPORT



This has also been a very productive year on several other initiatives that are particularly important to our existing businesses: The Alliance shared a leadership role in establishing and staffing the Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council, Inc. This new organization has the potential of developing our region into the best in the country at having the right number of people with the right skills available for employers for years to come.

The Baldwin Housing Alliance is another new organization that we helped form this year. This took nearly three years from the point that the Baldwin County Commission first chartered an “Affordable Housing Task Force” to this year when we were able to incorporate and hire Harrison Black as its first executive director. The business benefit ought to be homes and apartments in the right locations and prices for our workforce.

Along the way, we helped over 30 new businesses get started; helped several others find expansion funding; helped with the South Baldwin Tech Council; found ourselves in the middle of several regional efforts like iTen Wired; and were appointed by the Governor to serve on several committees on projects that will help the state as well as our region.

We have often been recognized as one of the best in industrial recruiting. We hope to also be recognized by our investors as one of the best in supporting our existing businesses!

Bob Higgins  
Vice President

### Welcome Josh Thornton, Director of Economic Development



Josh Thornton joined the staff of the Alliance in September of this year as the Director of Economic Development. Josh came to us from the Lawrence County (TN) Chamber of Commerce where he served as their Project Manager, Economic Development. He is originally from Waynesboro, MS and graduated from Mississippi State University. “I am excited about the area and the potential it has for successful economic development in the years to come”, Josh stated.

