



# VANTAGE Point

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## Leading Off

Before diving into the holiday festivities, **please take time to consider nominations for Leadership Alabama Class XXII.** As members who know the value of the Leadership Alabama class experience, you are the best source for identifying qualified candidates to participate in our program. Deadline for receiving nominations is fast approaching. Please take time now to fax or mail in your nominations (see pages 3 and 4), or fill out a [nomination form online](#).

We welcome three new members to the Leadership Alabama Board of Directors: Gordon Martin, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Alabama Power Company, Birmingham; Rick Myers, President, Director and Faculty Investigator, HudsonAlpha Institute, Huntsville; and James R. Seale, Attorney, Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole & Black, Montgomery.

Please note these important dates in the upcoming year!

- *Class XXI Education Retreat*  
Mobile, January 20-22, 2011
- *Class XXI Economic Development Retreat*  
Huntsville, March 24-26, 2011
- *Alabama Leadership Initiative*  
Montgomery, April 13-14, 2011
- *Reception for Alabama Leadership Initiative*  
Montgomery, April 13, 2011
- *Class XXI Closing Retreat*  
Birmingham, May 12-14, 2011

Ashley and Michelle join me in wishing you a joyful holiday season. With very best wishes,

*Barbara*

December 2010

*Dear Leadership Alabama Members:*

*As I am sure you are aware, Alabama's Gulf Coast was hit hard on April 20<sup>th</sup> when the Deepwater Horizon's oil-drilling rig exploded. Not only did the explosion claim 11 lives, but it also leaked over 4.9 million barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico, all but eliminating our peak tourist season.*

*While economic conditions had not been ideal prior to the explosion, spring business along the Gulf Coast was up and the area was looking forward to a prosperous summer. Unfortunately, after the incident and the resulting negative media attention, our beaches were almost empty all summer.*

*I am writing you today, as a Leadership Alabama member and as the Mayor of Gulf Shores, to let you know that one of the most powerful ways that you can help us right now is to visit the communities and the beaches along Alabama's coast that we call home. Whether you decide to "Coast This Holiday", [www.coastthisholiday.com](http://www.coastthisholiday.com) or wait until the weather warms up, [www.gulfshores.com](http://www.gulfshores.com), our calendar is full of great opportunities for you to enjoy the beaches like never before.*

*Come to Alabama's Gulf Coast and learn firsthand the magic that our area holds. I can assure you that you won't be disappointed.*



Honorable Robert Craft  
Mayor, Gulf Shores

## LEADERSHIP ALABAMA

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## Fall Field Trip: Alabama's Black Belt and Tuscaloosa

To complement the Class XXI experience, Michelle Roth, our program manager, and Sonny Ryan, Black Belt representative extraordinaire, with help from Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox, Bill Mackey, Demopolis Realtor and John Dorsey, Director of Project Horseshoe Farm, put together a great agenda for the optional field trip. Stops included Auburn Rural Studio, Horseshoe Farm, Pie Lab, a program on HERO in Greensboro, Alabama Black Belt Adventures and the University of Alabama athletic facilities. Several members from previous class joined members of Class XXI for the fall outing.



Feedback from the group tells the story best:

- *This was a great trip and very valuable for me personally. It is so important to see what is going on in this difficult part in the state. We put blinders on about the Black Belt, and this trip put context not only to the problems but also the good things that are going on there.*
- *I enjoyed the trip very much, and I always feel like I need to do more in my community when I see what others are accomplishing. Part of the Leadership experience for me is seeing what can be done with commitment from the right people. I definitely think the trip is worth adding to Leadership if the time/resources are there to put it back on the agenda.*
- *What a special treat it was to visit the Black Belt last week. I thought we would see mostly depressing subjects, but instead I was inspired by every person involved in the community. It seems that these programs are unknown to people like me who stay mainly focused on their own city.*
- *I was moved at how giving so many of these folks were to bettering the lives of others. John Dorsey is a living breathing example of servant leadership.*
- *I absolutely think it's a worthwhile and valuable field trip. First, because I had no familiarity with the Black Belt area, and the amazing programs that people and groups are working on. The things that stuck with me were John Dorsey's comments about the area. . . .that they do rely on each other because there is no expectation that anyone from the 'outside' will take care of them.*



## MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to newly elected Lt. Governor **Kay Ivey** (Class XI); **Luther Strange** (Class XIV), Attorney General; and **Terri Sewell** (Class XIX), elected to represent the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in the United State House of Representatives.



**Brad Sklar** (Class XX) was appointed by the City Council to fill a vacancy on the Mountain Brook Board of Education. **Eli Capilouto** (Class X) resigned the position after eight of service.

On 2010 National Philanthropy Day, The Association of Fundraising Professionals honored **Suzanne Durham** (Class V), CEO of the YWCA, as the William S. Roth Outstanding Fundraising Executive; and **William E. Smith, Jr.** (Class I) and his wife Becky as Outstanding Civic Leaders.



**Mike Jenkins** (Class I) recently received the Maury D. Smith Award for Excellence in Profession Ethics from The Samaritan Counseling Center in Montgomery.





## **Leadership Alabama Class XXII Nomination and Selection Guidelines**

Leadership Alabama is open to all interested residents of Alabama who meet these qualifications adopted by the Board of Directors regardless of age, sex, race, religion or national origin. Participants are selected largely on the basis of demonstrated leadership ability.

Candidates should:

- Demonstrate a commitment to community through past and present activities
- Demonstrate leadership ability in his/her chosen field through significant achievement
- Possess the potential for exercising substantial leadership in the future
- Exhibit a personal commitment to help shape the future of Alabama

**Regional Councils** act as screening committees for the nominations of those in their geographic areas. These regional councils forward prioritized lists to the Executive Committee who in turn presents the list of participants to the Board for approval. A nomination form must be received by the announced deadline for a person to be considered for the upcoming class. The Leadership Alabama Board of Directors will approve the final class roster.

### **Please note these specific policies as you consider nominees:**

#### **Age Requirement**

There is no specific minimum or maximum age limit for participation. However, nominations of those under the age of 40 will require additional evaluation by the Executive Committee and will be approved only if they are recognized as established leaders.

#### **Organizational Considerations**

It is required that a member of senior management (CEO, Chairman or President) within an organization or company participates before others in the same company will be asked to participate. There can be no more than one representative of an organization in the class in a given year.

#### **Elected Officials**

While Leadership Alabama welcomes participation by elected officials, we discourage nomination of a person actively involved in a political campaign. No campaign activities will be allowed during a program retreat.

#### **Attendance**

To graduate from Leadership Alabama, a participant is expected to attend all sessions. Even though emergencies do arise, any participant missing more than one session, for whatever reason, may be asked to withdraw. The Orientation Retreat is mandatory.

## CONFIDENTIAL NOMINATION FORM

Leadership Alabama encourages nominations of individuals who:

- Demonstrate a commitment to community through past and present activities;
- Demonstrate leadership ability in their chosen field through significant achievement;
- Possess the potential for exercising substantial leadership in the future; and
- Exhibit a personal commitment to help shape the future of Alabama.

Nominees do not fill out an application form, so you should provide evidence of these characteristics through information on this nomination form. Please complete all portions of the form. Deadline for submission of this form: **December 15, 2010**

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Name

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Firm/Organization of nominee

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Age \_\_\_\_\_ Race \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
Title

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Mailing Address

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list major accomplishments in community and civic activities.**

**Please list awards and recognitions.**

**Why do you believe this person will contribute to a better Alabama?**

**Does this candidate meet the qualifications for participation as listed above and on the nomination guidelines?**