



For Immediate Release
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2015 Small Business Week Chocked Full of Workshops & Recognition of Area Small Businesses

The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce will host Small Business Week to recognize and celebrate entrepreneurship and small business, May 4-7. The week's activities include the Small Business Conference, three days of workshops designed to offer valuable business tools and strategies, and cumulates with an awards luncheon.

During the luncheon at the Battle House Hotel on Thursday, May 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Chamber will name one of its three small business finalists as Small Business of the Year. The three companies vying for the title are American WeatherStar, McAleer's Office Furniture and Wilson Dismukes Inc.

The Chamber will also recognize Ralph Hargrove, president and founder of Hargrove Engineers + Constructors with the organization's Outstanding Entrepreneur Award.

"These three small businesses and one entrepreneur represent the strength of Mobile's business community. Our Chamber is committed to helping local businesses grow and prosper with professional development like what's being offered during Small Business Week and through entrepreneurial mentoring," says Mobile Area Chamber Board Chairman Frank Lott III and president of Heritage Homes. "That's how we will have the well-rounded and balanced economy that we are constantly striving for."

The luncheon's keynote speaker will be Dean Parker. Parker, who sold Callis, a cloud-based telecommunications company founded in 2005 to C-Spire last year, is chairman of 1702, a Chamber-led entrepreneurial mentoring program. Parker will tell his personal story that illustrates how chance and innovation create great opportunities.

The conference cost is \$75 or \$60 for Chamber and MBDA Business Center members. Parking for all events is free. Contact Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607

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or email brembert@mobilechamber.com to register or for more information.

Conference workshops include:

Monday, May 4: Mobile's Best Resources for Small Business Assistance

At this expo-type format, Mobile's business resource organizations will be on hand to answer your questions and offer advice. Areas of expertise include: financial analysis, business planning, marketing, research, funding and more. A list of participating organizations are on the Chamber's calendar of events at www.mobilechamber.com.

When & Where: 1:30 to 4 p.m. – West Mobile Regional Library, 5555 Grelot Rd.

Tuesday, May 5: Tried & True Ways to Grow Your Business

Kenny Crow of Crow Shields Baily PC helps businesses hone strategies for growth in four fundamental ways. Participants will leave with tried-and-true methods for business growth that can be implemented immediately.

When & Where: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. - Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Tuesday, May 5: Legal Issues Impacting Small Businesses

Facilitated by David Hannan of Maynard Cooper & Gale PC, a panel of local attorneys will address critical issues that impact business success. Business owners, key management, human resource managers and supervisors will have access to information and advice that normally could cost hundreds of dollars.

When & Where: 1 to 4:30 p.m. - Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Wednesday, May 6: Preparing Your Business to Reach the Next Level

Presented by the University of South Alabama Melton Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Representatives of more than 10 financing organizations that provide businesses with \$500 to more than \$2 million will participate in breakout sessions focused on debt, equity and alternative funding sources. This workshop is for companies that need working capital or a line of credit as well as first- or second-stage investors.

When & Where: 1 to 5 p.m. – American Red Cross, 35 N. Sage Ave.

Thursday, May 7: Mobile Area Small Business Week Luncheon

The week's activities conclude with the Mobile Area Small Business Week luncheon. The Mobile Area Chamber will name its Small Business of the Year from three finalists and honor Ralph Hargrove with the Outstanding Entrepreneur Award. Keynote speaker will be entrepreneur Dean Parker, who will tell his personal story of how chance and innovation create great opportunities.

When & Where: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Battle House Hotel

Cost: \$50 or \$40 for Mobile Area Chamber and MBDA Business Center members

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Reservations are required by Friday, May 1 and payment is due at time of registration. No refunds after that date.

The Title Sponsor for the Chamber's Small Business Week events is: Regions Bank. Gold level: C Spire. Silver level: Alabama Small Business Development Center Network, Community Bank and PNC Bank. Bronze level: Century Bank, Hand Arendall LLC, Maynard Cooper & Gale, Southern Development Council and Trustmark.

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