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1/26/11



Buckhead Coalition elects new officers

By Everett Catts

ecatts@neighbornewspapers.com



Staff / Nathan Self

John G. "Sonny" Morris, founder and senior partner at Morris, Manning and Martin LLP, a Buckhead-based law firm, speaks after being elected the new chairman of the Buckhead Coalition.



The Buckhead Coalition announced its new leadership today at its annual luncheon at 103 West.

Founded in 1988, the coalition is an organization of 100 CEOs from major companies who can join by invitation only. It serves as a chamber of commerce for Buckhead.

Officers were elected to two-year terms. John G. "Sonny" Morris was elected chairman and Sam Massell was re-elected as president.

Rayna J. Casey and Thomas M. Lowe III were chosen vice presidents, M. Maxine Hicks was elected secretary and Charles B. Crawford Jr. was named treasurer. Casey and Lowe were re-elected to their positions.

Outgoing coalition chairman James B. Miller Jr., chairman and CEO of Fidelity Southern Bank, a holding company for Fidelity Bank, spoke on ending his term.

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"It's been a good two years and I'm happy to turn the gavel over to someone else," he said.

Morris, founder and senior partner at Morris, Manning and Martin LLP, a Buckhead-based law firm, has been a coalition member for 12 years.

"Twenty-two years ago, when the Buckhead Coalition was started by its founders, Sam Massell and Charlie Loudermilk, ... its goals were to [enhance] the quality of life in Buckhead and fulfill the orderly growth," Morris said. "Sam is often the catalyst for these actions. I am proud to join Sam now to achieve the coalition's [goals]."

"As the 11th chairman of the coalition, I'm honored to be a part of the tradition."

Massell, a former Atlanta mayor, added, "Sonny keeps a low profile and he's apolitical, which is good, because we've got enough Republicans and Democrats already [in the organization]. He'll bring

balance to political discussions. He's very sophisticated member of the [State] Bar [of Georgia] who is highly respected and will be a credit to the coalition."

In addition to the officers, executive committee members were elected to three-year terms: Frank B. Bradshaw III, William H. Harrison Jr., David H. King, Addie P. Mathes and Jeffrey C. Sprecher. S. Scott Selig was elected to a two-year term. Bradshaw, Harrison and King were re-elected.

Carryover executive committee members are: David B. Allman, M. Brantley Barrow, Stanley W. Benecki, G. Niles Bolton, James C. Edenfield, Samuel G. Friedman, David H. Gambrell, John C. Hamilton, John W. Lundeen III, Jacques P. Murphy, Geoffrey N. Nolan, Earl L. Shell Jr., Alana S. Shepherd and Eric J. Tannenblatt, plus founders Loudermilk, James M. Caswell Jr., Julian LeCraw Sr., Mark C. Pope III and George W. Rohrig Jr.



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