



*Jackson Madison County*  
*African American Chamber of Commerce*

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FERRELL AND SHARP TO CO-CHAIR AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER'S GOLF TOURNAMENT AT BENT TREE GOLF COURSE – SEPTEMBER 9, 2014**

JACKSON, Tenn., May 5, 2014 -- The Jackson Madison County African American Chamber of Commerce (JMCAACC) is pleased to announce that Jim Ferrell and Chester Sharp will co-chair this year's golf tournament. Jim Ferrell, president and CEO of Jackson Energy Authority, is a returning co-chair from the 2013 tournament. Chester Sharp, vice-president and branch manager of the University Branch of Bancorp South, has served as captain of the company team and has played in the tournament every year since it began in 2011. The 4th Annual Follow Me Celebrity Golf Classic will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, beginning at 11 a.m. at Bent Tree Golf Course, 2993 Paul Coffman Drive, Jackson, Tenn.

Last year's tournament -- sponsored by Jackson Energy Authority, West Tennessee Healthcare, Lane College, University of Tennessee Martin along with WOJG-FM, the *West Tennessee Examiner*, the *Jackson Sun* and Jonah Affordable Housing Org. -- recognized 18 health care professionals. Winning teams for 2013 were: First Flight: Champions, Lee S. Berry State Farm of Brownsville; 2nd Place, JEA Team 2; 3rd Place, City of Jackson; Second Flight: 1st Place, Alexander Thompson Arnold; 2nd Place, AT&T; 3rd Place, Raymond James.

Jim Ferrell is also president of The Tennergy Corporation. A native Jacksonian and graduate of Jackson-Central-Merry High School, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and later earned a MBA from University of Tennessee at Martin. Jim has spent his entire professional career at Jackson Energy Authority, starting in 1986 as a co-operative engineering student during his college years. During his career at JEA, he has promoted to various managerial positions, including Vice President of Operations, Senior Vice President of the Electric Division, and Chief Operating Officer. Jim is a registered professional engineer in Tennessee and a Water/Wastewater Plant Certified Operator.

Chester L. Sharp, Sr. is also a Jackson native and a cum laude graduate of Lane College, and holds a MBA from Bethel University. He has been employed with Bancorp South since 2001. A member of the 2008 Leadership Jackson class, he is currently a member of the Board of West Tennessee Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and a past board member of R.I.F.A., Boys and Girls Clubs of Jackson and Jonah

Affordable Housing, Inc. He has been awarded civic and community service awards from numerous organizations including Boys and Girls Clubs of Jackson, Phi Delta Kappa, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, WestStar and Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. His hobbies include reading, teaching financial education seminars, coaching youth basketball and playing golf. He is married to Lesley A. Sharp and they have three children.

The annual tournament raises funds for the African American Chamber's youth development program. The Follow Me Into Business® program was founded in 2002 to provide young people, 12-18, with job training skills and business basics training as well as mentoring, employment and community involvement opportunities. The year-round program also includes an 8-week Summer Program held in conjunction with T.R. White Sportsplex. This summer, the chamber will be able, once again, to provide 10 paid summer jobs for 16-18 year olds in conjunction with a funding grant from the City of Jackson.

The Jackson Madison County African American Chamber of Commerce is a 501(3)c nonprofit organization which was founded in 1999. The office is located at 351-C North Royal in Jackson, Tennessee. Clarence Boone, owner of C & L Grocery and Catering, is board president. Florence Howard is executive director and Mary Cunningham is office manager.

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