MAIN STREET
ALABAMA
Creating Jobs. Keeping Character.

Mary's Minute

My favorite time of the year is the Awards for Excellence on Main Street ceremony that is held in conjunction with our annual LAB – Main Street Alabama's Conference. The awards program was developed to recognize excellence in all areas of the Main Street Four Point Approach® We celebrate the best volunteers, partner organizations and projects of the state's local Main Street organizations. Local Main Street organizations are encouraged to nominate high-quality projects, outstanding volunteers and partner organizations that they feel are worthy of state-level recognition.

This event is a highlight for me for several reasons: it is great fun seeing a large group gathered to network and share; everyone is dressed for the evening and in great spirits; and ee have wonderful sponsors: Regions Financial for the Toast to Excellence before the awards banquet and AMEA for the banquet itself. This year the conference was held in Florence, AL and it was held in the restored Sweetwater Depot, just lovely. The food was amazing, prepared by local chef, Alan Phillips, Executive Chef and Owner of Red Clay Epicurean.

What I love about the Awards for Excellence on Main Street is the comradery you see being built before your eyes as the awardees come up to accept their award and as they return to their table, the number of people stopping them and making plans to connect and see how they could possibly do something similar in their community. That is what makes Main Street special! The willingness to share and true desire to see others succeed. I am very proud to be a part of Main Street Alabama and know in my heart that we are making a difference in our wonderful state. In future issues of our newsletter we will highlight winners and give them the opportunity to share the amazing things they are doing in their communities.