

GACCE

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION of CHAMBER of COMMERCE EXECUTIVES

■ FEBRUARY 2010



Chairman's Corner

Chip Cherry, CCE
President
Greater Macon Chamber

For many of us “tweeting” is something we did as children when we were mimicking the birds, “My Space” was the area on our side of the room we shared with our sibling, and “friends” developed as a result of shared interests and experiences. What a difference a few years make – now we can receive updates through “tweets,” become “friends” with people we barely know on Facebook, and interact with a community of interest on My Space. Social Media, what is it and how can we use it to engage our members? Good question!

A great place to learn how to use Social Media to enhance your Chamber’s operations is to attend the 2010 Staff Clinic. During the boot camp sessions, you will learn what you need to know to exploit opportunities that are present through Social Media to enhance communication with sectors of your membership and enhance attendance at your events. Those who attend these sessions will gain an understanding of what can be accomplished through the use of Social Media.

I encourage you to attend the Staff Clinic on March 16-18th in Douglasville. Also, I ask that you please share your successes and failures in the Social Media arena



Dalton – Pictured are members of the legislative delegation that represent Whitfield County holding this year’s commemorative rug.

with me. As a follow-up to the Staff Clinic sessions, I would like for GACCE to publish a guide on the use of Social Media and your real life examples would help make it relevant. So for those who have the “I wish I had known this earlier” stories to share, please e-mail them to me at ccherry@maconchamber.com.

I look forward to seeing you in Douglasville!

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EVENTS CALENDAR



GACCE Staff Clinic

March 16-18, 2010
Douglasville, GA

Don't miss this great training opportunity for you & your staff! Registration material is on the GACCE web site.

February 2

State of the Cities Event
Barrow County Chamber

February 4

20th Annual Banquet
Harris County Chamber

February 5

62nd Annual Dinner & Celebration
Gwinnett Chamber

February 6

63rd Annual Dinner & Celebration
Barrow County Chamber

February 6

Catoosa Gala
Catoosa County Chamber

February 9

Carroll County Day at the Capitol
Carroll County Chamber

February 18

Annual Meeting
Augusta Metro Chamber

February 18

Business After Hours
Hart County Chamber

February 18

STAR Luncheon
Liberty County Chamber

February 27

Annual Eggs and Issues Breakfast
Hart County Chamber

PAST CHAIR ARTICLE

An "Altar Call?"

Mike Gaymon, GCCE

*President & CEO, Greater Columbus Chamber
1995-1996 Chair of GACCE*



Some in the business may know that I am a preacher's kid. So it comes natural for me to every now and then give what I will call an "altar call."

We have a super staff and they like many Chamber folks are overworked and underpaid for the tasks, responsibilities and accountabilities at hand. However, reminding them of the expectations and the focus on priorities and the "adjustments" that might be needed from time to time I have found helps to clear the air. My favorite expression is to "throw the skunk on the table."

So it was last Friday when I began to talk about some of the challenges of 2009 and some of the opportunities for 2010. I began with a few questions from Lou Holtz, former football coach of Notre Dame and South Carolina. These were: 1. Can people trust you to do your very best? 2. Are you truly committed to the task at hand? 3. Do you care and demonstrate that it is about the team more than it is about you and your own personal needs and interests?

1. Trust – if our volunteers, our members, and our own staff members can't 100% trust us to do our very best every day, in everything we do even in spite of whatever might be some reasonable excuses, then we have lost an important element of being successful. Once trust is lost or damaged, it is very hard to build anything lasting. Can I trust you to not throw someone under the bus when it might be convenient? Can I trust that you will always be honest even when it hurts?

2. Commitment – there is a big difference in being truly committed and working at it. We all probably know examples of some people that in spite of their challenges, the hardships, the lack of resources, they never give up. Commitment to making our Chamber the very best that it can be is a 24/7 challenge. They also don't let excuses keep them from achieving. We must commit to keeping our own attitudes positive so that we never become a part of the problem but are always looking to be part of the solution.

Like Mama said, if you can't say something nice, keep your mouth closed.

3. Team – there is no place for a superstar in our Chamber BUT there are many places for superstars! Personal ego, personalities, private agendas can drain an organization's energy and focus. If things aren't going well at the office, I challenged everyone to look in the mirror. I believe that the biggest challenge that a person can face is them self. If you have a chip on your shoulder, someone will knock it off. If you think that you can make more money somewhere else, you are probably right but don't start feeling like you are being taken advantage of just because the salary hasn't grown to what you want.

At the end of the "sermon" the focus turned to me. If I am to be the leader that I need to be, then I must make sure that I exceed all that is expected of the staff. I must set the standard. Our Officers, our Directors, our Members, our partners should never doubt that they are getting the very best of what we have to offer in time, talent and commitment. If 2010 is going to be one of our best years, then when I look in the mirror, there will be no doubt that I have the person looking back who has no regrets and has done his best.

After all, weren't we put on this earth to make it a better place and not just take but give? Give your best and it is amazing how lucky you will become.

MARCH 2010 Newsletter

The deadline for the
MARCH
GACCE newsletter will be
Friday, February 19, 2010.
Please send updates to
Tiffany Fulmer at
fulmer@gacce.org.

CHAMBER FOLKS

Staff Updates from Albany Area Chamber

Brenda Bryant, administrative assistant to the president, retired in January. The Chamber honored her with a retirement party.

Jenny Collins will be moving into Brenda's position starting February 1. Jenny has been with the Chamber seven years in many positions, most recently events coordinator.

Harriet Hollis will become the "Strive2Thrive" Coordinator responsible for organizing and engaging the community to work collaboratively to eradicate poverty in Albany.

Position Available at Douglas County Chamber

The Chamber is seeking an individual to fulfill duties as a full-time **Director of Communications and Community Affairs**. The Chamber offers a comprehensive compensation and benefits package. You can view the job description on the GACCE/GEDA Job Bank on the GACCE web site, or call the Chamber at (770) 942-5022.

Wedding Bells for Exec at Newnan-Coweta Chamber

Candace LaForge, President of the Chamber, and **John Boothby**, former President of the Covington-Newton County Chamber, were married on November 22, 2009 in a rustic prayer chapel in Coweta County. Congratulations to you both!



New Executive at Sylvester-Worth County Chamber

The Chamber is pleased to announce that **Karen Rackley** has been selected as President. Karen started her new position with the Chamber on January 4, 2010.

CHAMBER UPDATES

Albany Area Chamber

Catherine Glover, President/CEO

The Chamber published their 100th Anniversary book entitled "Reflections." The book looks back at the Chamber's history of helping businesses succeed for the past 100 years. The book debuted at the Annual Meeting in January.

Lunch with Leaders is a new and dynamic networking event recently initiated from a suggestion made in a legislative affairs committee meeting. Every other month, the Chamber will invite community leaders to have lunch and to engage with the membership, with an end-goal of educating the membership. The Leaders share current initiatives and raise awareness of community opportunities and challenges. Albany City Manager Al Lott and Dougherty County Administrator Richard Crowdis were "leaders" at the January luncheon.

Kendra Heath was named the Ambassador of the Year for attending 46 events during 2009. Kendra attended Star Business of the Week events, numerous ribbon cuttings, and assisted at Chamber events.

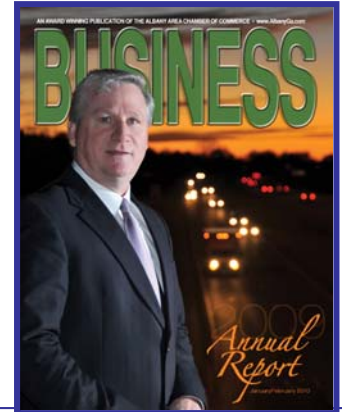
The Chamber distributed the 2009 Annual Report issue of the Business Magazine to their members. Inside readers will find the 2009 accomplishments the Chamber and the Albany Convention and Visitors Bureau have achieved, 2010 executive board/board information and bios with photos of new board members. To view this and other issues of "Business" please go to www.albanyga.com.

Emerge Albany is looking forward to growing the excitement for the community through their new initiatives of recruitment, community involvement, interact, professional development, governmental affairs, and communications. Each initiative has a committee of volunteers leading the efforts. They are looking forward to an exciting and full year!

Augusta Metro Chamber

Sue Parr, President

Strength in Numbers will be the theme of this year's Annual Meeting to be held



Albany – The Chamber's 2009 Annual Report is hot off the press.

Augusta Metro Chamber (*continued*)

on February 18 at the Augusta Marriott Hotel & Suites. The guest speaker for the event will be Dennis P. Lockhart, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. The evening's activities will also include the traditional passing of the gavel as well as the presentation of this year's recipient of the Lester S. Moody Award of Excellence.

Three new members have been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Chamber. Certified Public Accountant Sanford Loyd, Clay Sprouse of Savannah River Remediation and Marc Miller of Augusta State University were appointed to the Board of Directors at the December general Board meeting. They will each serve a three year term.

The Chamber has launched a new community fund in support of education. ERA, which stands for Educational Resources of Augusta, is a philanthropic, community fund dedicated exclusively for the purpose of supporting public education in the Augusta Region. The ERA fund, initiated by the Chamber's Business Education Advisory Council this year, represents a new way for corporate and individual donors to support public education and workforce development by maximizing aggregated contributions into one fund. The ERA Fund will have strategic granting objectives that will stimulate graduation and academic achievement and foster the development of student career paths to meet local workforce needs. The ERA Fund is a Donor Advised Fund of The Community Foundation for the CSRA.

CEO PROFILE



Martha Eaker

President/CEO

Catoosa County Chamber

Martha grew up in East Ridge, TN and moved to Catoosa County in 1964. She had a career in the textile business as Assistant Plant Manager at a hosiery mill and then as a manufactures rep for several years before entering the real estate business. She was active in real estate business for over 20 years serving as an agent and leaving the business as a Regional Vice President for a major real estate firm.

After volunteering for the Chamber for 15+ years, she became President and CEO of the Catoosa County Chamber in October 2006.

Before joining the Chamber staff, she was a board member and also was Chamber Board Chairman of the Chamber in 2002. She was named Chamber Member of Year twice.

She currently serves on the Catoosa Family Collaborative, Catoosa Citizens for Literacy, Georgia Northwestern Technical College, and the Northwest Joint Economic Development Authority. She is also President-Elect of the Ringgold Rotary Club and a member of Ringgold United Methodist Church.

She has been married for 49 years and has a grown son and a 16 year-old grandson.

The Catoosa County Chamber has a staff of three serving 385 members.

How did you get into the Chamber business?

During my 20 years in real estate I volunteered for the Chamber. I left the real estate business in 2006 and at that time the Board of Directors asked me about coming on board as the Chamber President. Since I was not looking forward to retiring at that time

CHAMBER UPDATES

Barrow County Chamber

Thomas Jennings, President

The Chamber will hold a "State of the Cities" event on February 2 at the Barrow County Park and Recreational Department.

The Chamber's 63rd Annual Dinner & Celebration will take place February 6 at the Chateau Élan Winery & Resort.

Camden County Chamber

Christine Daniel, President

The Chamber is hosting the Chick-Fil-A Leadership Simulcast on May 7. The Chick-Fil-A Leadercast is a one-day leadership training event featuring a lineup of renowned leaders - authors, business practitioners, leadership experts and many other professionals. The event sponsored by the Chamber will be broadcast LIVE via satellite from the Southeast Community Church.

Camilla Chamber

Eddie McCarty, Executive Director

The Chamber held it's 43rd Annual Meeting in January. The evening's entertainment was provided by "The Jones Family," and the Mitchell County Citizen of the Year award was presented.

Carroll County Chamber

Daniel Jackson, President & CEO

The Chamber hosted their 55th Annual Dinner, "All That Jazz" featuring highlights of the 2009 year led by Chairman Joe Stone and unveiling a full agenda for 2010 with incoming Chair Faye McIntyre. Over 200 guests braved snow and ice on January 9 to enjoy the celebration with entertainment by the University of West Georgia Jazz Ensemble Nonet.



Macon - Members of the Military Affairs Committee recently took a tour of Robins Air Force Base.

Carroll County Chamber (continued)

The Chamber and the Times-Georgian newspaper hosted a 'Business Success Luncheon' in January at The Burson Center titled "Advertising and Marketing your Business in a Tough Economy." This was the first in a series of 2010 programs focusing on small business and entrepreneurship.

The Chamber's Networking after Hours was hosted by Sunset Hills Country Club in Carrollton in January with over 75 members enjoying great food, door prizes, and business to business networking.

Carroll County Day at the State Capitol is scheduled for February 9. The annual Chamber sponsored CC Day will include lunch with the local legislative delegation and representatives from the Georgia Chamber.

Catoosa County Chamber

Martha Eaker, President & CEO

The Catoosa Gala will be held on the evening of February 6. The Small, Medium and Large Business of the Year will be named as well as the Catoosa County Citizen of the Year. The Moon Dance band will provide dancing and entertainment for the evening.

Chatsworth-Murray County Chamber

Dinah Rowe, GCCE, President

The 32nd Annual Banquet will be held at the Cohutta Springs Conference Center on March 2. The guest speaker for the evening will be Speaker of the House, David Ralston.

Cobb Chamber

Don Beaver, Interim President

The Chamber is staying ahead of the game by committing more assets towards business and economic growth in Cobb County. Businesses in the community now have a new resource when they are looking to relocate or enhance their businesses. The Chamber has created an online commercial real estate database to further economic development and growth in the county. The database, when completed, will help bring together property seekers / businesses with available properties. Anyone can search the database for developed and undeveloped retail, office and industrial properties by going online to www.cobbcommercialrealestate.org. Cobb County commercial properties can be listed

CEO PROFILE

Martha Eaker

President/CEO
Catoosa County Chamber

in my life, it seemed a perfect solution for the both of us.

What do you like best about your job?

I made a living from this community during the time I was in real estate so I knew first hand how you can grow your business from Chamber networking. It is such a thrill for me to be able to encourage others to use the Chamber to grow their business and actually see it work.

What's the biggest challenge you face in your community?

Economic development is our biggest challenge. We have experienced a population explosion due to our location, terrific school system, low crime rate and all around quality of life. Therefore our tax base is very skewed toward residential as opposed to a balance between residential, commercial and industry.

Who has helped you the most in becoming a successful Chamber Executive?

I knew and understood the Chamber and the community before I came to work at the Chamber. This has been a huge asset for me. There have been several members of the community who have been supportive of me during my time here.

What piece of advice would you give to a new Chamber Executive?

Take the time to know your community inside and out. And realize, even though your staff may be small, work with your volunteers to get the work complete. But always remember that they are volunteers and their "real job" has to come first.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up and why?

As a child I wanted to work, as odd as this sounds. The kids in the neighborhood would play "playhouse" and I would make a briefcase using a box with masking tape as a handle and play "go to work." So I suppose I was a work alcoholic from the beginning.

CHAMBER UPDATES

Cobb Chamber (*continued*)

in this database by filling out a simple form found at the web site.

The Chamber celebrated Chairwoman Dr. Lisa Rossbacher's year during its 68th Annual Dinner in January at the Cobb Galleria Centre. The crowd of more than 800 saw Rossbacher pass the chairman's position to Rob Garcia of Bank of North Georgia. The Chamber honored its 2009 Board of Directors and gave several prestigious awards.

Dalton-Whitfield Chamber

Brian Anderson, President & CEO

Chamber Diplomats had an afternoon of Christmas Caroling in December. They accomplished a sales call, the members enjoyed the visit and the Chamber was able to pay a special retention call. Now that's a win-win-win!

Over 320 were in attendance at the 10th annual Legislative Appreciation Reception hosted by the Greater Dalton community. A commemorative rug displaying the State's Live Oak Tree was given to the members of the House, the Senate and top elected officials. Legislative talking points were developed and presented to those Legislators that attended the reception.

Eatonton-Putnam Chamber

Roddie Anne Blackwell, President

The Chamber began the 15th Leadership Putnam Class in January. Twenty-eight students accepted the challenge.

The Chamber will present its wildly popular annual murder mystery dinner theatre, *Lights! Camera! Murder!* on March 5 & 6. Everyone is invited to socialize and schmooze with A-list celebrities at the most elaborate party of them all!

Gilmer County Chamber

Paige Green, President

The Chamber hosted its 31st Annual Banquet in January. Over 250 members and guests gathered at Chattahoochee Technical College-Appalachian Campus for the evening program. The 2009 Chamber Member of the Year is Sherry Estes, and the 2009 Business Member of the Year is Faith, Hope, and Charity. Other awards were presented and the Board of Directors were announced.



Liberty County – The Chamber's 2010 Board was inducted at their Annual Meeting.

Greater Columbus Chamber

Mike Gaymon, GCCE, President & CEO

John F. Flournoy received the Jim Woodruff, Jr. Memorial Award representing the Hall of Fame of Columbus Leadership in January. Mr. Flournoy has led The Columbus Gateways community-wide beautification and landscape enhancement program in Columbus. Since the initial program in 1992, twenty-eight major gateways and arteries within Muscogee County have been landscaped with trees, shrubbery, and flowers.

In response to the competitive challenges facing the metal recycling business in the Columbus Region, Newell Recycling, LLC announced that it is opening a metal recycling transfer facility in Columbus. The company is investing \$2 million in the new facility, which is expected to create employment for 5 people in phase one and an additional 10 people as the business develops.

The Chamber's Young Professionals kicked off its first member-wide meeting of 2010 in January. Hosted by Board Member Amy Giglio, a Senior Manager with Aflac at their newly opened I.T. facility, more than 70 young professionals gathered to learn about the Young Professional Program.

Site Selection magazine did a three-page story on Columbus and the Valley Partnership the January 2010 issue. The story talked about NCR with great quotes from the company about the success of their project here. The story included the Manpower Outlook Survey that ranks Columbus #1 in the nation for first quarter 2010 employment growth. Another focus

■ G. P. E. E.

Georgia Partnership for Excellence In Education Announces Top 10 Education Issues List

The Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education has released the sixth edition of its annual "Top Ten Issues to Watch" report. The 2010 list covers a variety of topics::

- Budget, Budget, Budget: The Grim Realty
- Georgia's Race to the Top
- Standards & Assessments: The Foundation for Student Success
- A Data System to Support Instruction
- Great Teachers & Leaders: What Our Students Need Most
- Turning Around Georgia's Lowest-Achieving Schools
- College Access for All
- The Expanding Charter School Frontier
- Filing Suit: Education Litigation in Georgia
- Understanding Rural Georgia

As in past editions, each subject area is broken down into three sections – an issue overview, the political context of the issue, and what's next for Georgia. The report's author, the Partnership's Policy and Research Director Susan Walker, begins researching topics in the early fall and searches not only the state's education landscape but the national scene as well.

Georgia Partnership President Dr. Steve Dolinger says the "Top Ten" continues to gain in popularity. Almost 5,000 hard copies were distributed last year and there was a like number downloaded from the organization's web site. The annual report has become a favorite of government leaders at all levels, businessmen and women, and citizens interested in learning more.

The report is available on the Web site at www.gpee.org. The Partnership will provide up to two copies for free upon request. Contact the Partnership at 404-223-2280 or by e-mail at bmaddox@gpee.org.

■ CHAMBER UPDATES

Greater Columbus Chamber (cont.)

of the story was Fort Benning's BRAC growth into the Maneuver Center of Excellence and its impact on the economy.

Greater Hall Chamber

Kit Dunlap, President & CEO

The Chamber has worked with *Inside Business* to produce a TV marketing video that will be featured on news networks such as CNN Headline News for targeted markets. *Inside Business* is an executive business report that takes a contemporary look at the world's economy. The segment features Gainesville – Hall County, Georgia and our economic development efforts in a global economy. It can be viewed from the Chamber web site and on YouTube.

January was highlighted with the Chamber's Buy Local Business Expo combined with a Business After Hours. There was an overflow of small business booths showcasing their services and products. There were small business seminars on marketing during the day, and there was food, music, and door prizes. There was also positive excitement for 2010.

An Industry Appreciation luncheon was held to honor the large, medium and small industries of the year. Lanier Technical College partnered with the Chamber for the event. Commissioner Ken Stewart, Georgia Department of Economic Development was the featured speaker. Award recipients were: Wrigley Manufacturing, Cargill and Hollis Transport. Other industries recognized: Kubota, SKF, Elan Drug Technologies and Sherwin Williams Atlanta Distribution Service Center.



Swainsboro – The Chamber recently hosted Georgia's Tourism Representatives in Emanuel County.

Greater Hall Chamber (cont.)

Congressman Nathan Deal spoke to the Chamber's Healthcare Committee about the process of the Healthcare Bill in Congress and the potential outcomes and effects on business. Congressman Deal is the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Health.

Greater Macon Chamber

Chip Cherry, CCE, President

The Chamber held its first event of 2010, the annual Open House. This drop-in event is used to welcome the new board members and allow the members, and some potential members, to come to the Chamber and see what is coming up for 2010. It was a great success with over 100 people in attendance.

Another successful Leadership Macon Class graduated in December 2009. In January, the Leadership Macon Class of 2010 began with a two day orientation at Rock Eagle. During the orientation, class members were challenged with team building exercises to increase trust and develop a bond among classmates. This shows throughout the year as they work together on numerous community service projects.

Members of the Chamber's Military Affairs Committee toured the Robins Air Force Base on the Middle Georgia Military Affairs Tour. Nine people attended the tour in which they were able to see first hand how the base works. The visit included tours of planes, the Air Control Tower, and numerous other spots on the base. The tours are planned specifically for Chambers and are scheduled quarterly.

Gwinnett Chamber

Jim Maran, President & CEO

WOLF officially announced its new distribution plant in Gwinnett County in addition to its two facilities on the east coast. The new 101,000 square feet of usable office and industrial space means 15 new jobs and approximately \$1.5 million in capital investment for the County.

The Chamber's 62nd Annual Dinner will be a black-tie optional celebration held on February 5 at the Gwinnett Center. The Chamber will review its accomplishments from 2009 and its 2010 Business Plan.

Gwinnett Chamber Economic Development recently announced the location of its first international office to be stationed in Wuxi, China.

■ GEORGIA CHAMBER

Annual Meeting Dinner and Eggs & Issues Breakfast a Success



The Chamber hosted its Annual Meeting Dinner featuring speaker Mike Huckabee, followed by the yearly Eggs & Issues Breakfast in January. The dinner hosted 1,700 guests, while nearly 2,300 attended the breakfast. Both events were held at the Georgia World Congress Center.

Before the Annual Meeting Dinner, a reception was hosted for new members of the Chamber. KIA of West Point showcased several cars, including the first one off the line at the new manufacturing plant.

The annual Eggs & Issues Breakfast offered guests a chance to hear from elected officials – including Governor Sonny Perdue, Lt. Governor Casey Cagle, and Speaker of the House David Ralston – about their predictions for the 2010 legislative session. The Chamber's legislative agenda was also distributed at both events.

50 Georgia Chamber Individuals Named to Georgia Trend's "Most Influential" List

Individuals from 50 member companies were named to the 12th edition of *Georgia Trend's* "Most Influential Georgians." This year's list represents a wide range of fields, including manufacturing, government, healthcare, technology, banking and transportation.

George M. Israel, III, President & CEO of the Chamber, was recognized for his work making the organization a dynamic presence for business at the State Capitol. Suzanne Sitherwood, 2010 Board Chair-Elect and President of Atlanta Gas Light, and Mike Garrett, 2009 Board Chair and President & CEO of Georgia Power, were also included on this year's list.

■ CHAMBER UPDATES

Harris County Chamber

Lynda Dawson, President

The Chamber's 20th Annual Banquet is scheduled for February 4 at Callaway Gardens.

Hart County Chamber

Michele Dipert, President

The Chamber will host a Business After Hours on February 18 at the Cateechee Golf Club.

The Annual Eggs and Issues Breakfast will be held February 27 at the Adult Learning Center.

LaGrange-Troup County Chamber

Page Estes, President

The Christmas parade in downtown LaGrange included 100 entries, with a highlight being live camels walking the parade route to represent the Explorations in Antiquity Museum.

Cinda Baxter, founder of the "3/50 Program" was the keynote speaker at the Chamber's annual meeting. Her formula for economic success in a community is for residents to shop locally by visiting three stores and spending \$50 in each. The annual meeting also was highlighted by the presentation of the "Jane Fryer Award" to Joe Maltese and Dick Timmerberg for their unflinching dedication to the prosperity of West Point Lake.

A former Brunswick/Golden Isles Chamber employee and her husband have opened a business in LaGrange. Carmin and Clay Ogata have brought coastal food to West Georgia with the opening of Low Country Restaurant. Of course, they joined the Chamber first!

Liberty County Chamber

Kenny Smiley, GCCE, Executive Director

The 2010 Chamber Annual Dinner & Banquet was held in January at Club Stewart. The Chamber's annual event brought together community leaders, chamber members and guests to recognize special volunteers & businesses for their community and Chamber service. This is the Chamber's largest business meeting of the year and featured Liberty County native Brynn Grant, Executive Director of the Creative Coast Alliance, as the keynote speaker. The gavel of leadership was



Warner Robins – The Chamber recently awarded Lisa Redmond with the A.C. "Dick" Walden III Chamber Person of the Year Award..

Liberty County Chamber (cont.)

passed from the 2009 Chairman Danny Creasy to the 2010 Chairman Toby Mahan, and the 2010 Board Members were inducted. The Chamber's 2010 plan of "Partnering for Progress" was also presented.

The Chamber will host its STAR Luncheon on February 18 at Bethesda Church in Hinesville. The presenting sponsor is Georgia Power Company. The Chamber will recognize STAR students and teachers from Liberty County High School, Bradwell Institute and this year newly added First Presbyterian Christian Academy.

Swainsboro-Emanuel County Chamber

Bill Rogers, Jr., Executive Director

The Chamber, along with city, county and Joint Development Authority representatives, hosted Georgia's Regional Tourism Representatives in Emanuel County. The tourism group, representing the nine different tourism regions of the state and members of the Georgia Department of Economic Development / Tourism Division, gathered in January to conduct a three-day tourism strategic planning session for the State of Georgia. The 17-member group stayed at Flat Creek Lodge Monday through Wednesday. Coordinating local activities, the Chamber was able to provide lunch at the Coleman House and dinner at Geo. L. Smith State Park on Monday night. The group was given a tour of the park and shown a power point presentation on notable developments in Emanuel County.

■ GEORGIA CHAMBER

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer Addresses Georgia Chamber Cornerstone Members

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer was the featured speaker at a breakfast in January at The Commerce Club in downtown Atlanta. Approximately 200 people, including the Chamber's Cornerstone membership, attended the event. Ballmer was on hand to give key insight into the future of technology in business and also answered candid questions from the audience.

The Chamber plans to host similar events for its Cornerstone members in the future – watch www.gachamber.com for more information.

■ US CHAMBER INSTITUTE

Southeast Summer Institute Registration Open

The US Chamber's **Southeast Institute for Organizational Management** will be held at UGA on **June 20-24**.

For more information, go to: www.uschamber.com/Institute or contact **Elyse Cochran** at (706) 278-7373.

■ CHAMBER UPDATES

Warner Robins Area Chamber

Ed Rodriguez, President & CEO

The Chamber announced its 2010 Leadership Warner Robins Program is underway with 17 local business leaders participating. The Leadership Warner Robins Program is designed to help prepare and encourage the business community's emerging leaders to seek leadership positions within their community. This year, the Leadership WR Program continued to partner with the Leadership Perry Program for two classes, which will enable participants to increase their business network and benefit from exposure to a wider range of ideas during class activities. The first class, held in conjunction with Leadership Perry, focused on teambuilding and featured an overnight retreat on Robins Air Force Base.

The Chamber held the first Leadership Alumni Series Breakfast which featured the new mayor of Warner Robins, Chuck Shaheen. Mayor Shaheen spoke to past graduates and present class participants about the true value of being a leader and spoke fondly of his late father and mentor, Charles Shaheen II.

The Chamber also celebrated six decades of service to the business and local community at its 60th Annual Meeting. Over 250 guests were in attendance as the Chamber awarded many prestigious awards. The Annual Meeting served as a

Warner Robins Area Chamber (cont.)

platform for the Chamber to install new officers and welcome new board members. In keeping with Chamber tradition, the meeting also served as the official transfer of leadership from 2009 Chairman Rock Drury to 2010 Chairman Kathy Balletto.

■ GEORGIA CENSUS

Georgia's Complete Count Committee Wants You!

The Georgia Census Complete Count Committee, appointed by Governor Perdue in October, has just launched a comprehensive Census 2010 website at www.census.georgia.gov, and invites all LOCAL Complete Count Committees to visit the Local Committees page and let us know who you are and what you're doing. If your community or special interest group has formed a complete count committee, please let us know about it, and check out the rest of our website for resources and other information of interest.

The Committee is co-chaired by Mike Beatty, Commissioner of the Dept. of Community Affairs, and Debra Lyons, Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Development.

For more information, please contact the Georgia CCC at (404) 679-3147.



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 Ashley Roberts, Burke County
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 Dinah Rowe, GCCE, Chatsworth-Murray County
 Kenny Smiley, GCCE, Liberty County
 Nancy Arnold Wood, Monticello-Jasper County
 Tiffany Fulmer, GACCE Administrator