

# GACCE

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION of CHAMBER of COMMERCE EXECUTIVES

■ **MAY 2010**



## Chairman's Corner

Chip Cherry, CCE  
President  
Greater Macon Chamber

No one enters this business knowing what to do or how to do it. If you are going to make it in the Chamber field, you need to find a mentor (or mentors) and develop a group of peers with whom you can vent your frustrations and discuss ideas. Ours is a complicated business with plenty of curve balls to keep you on your toes. I learned this the hard way when I was hired as the Executive Director of what is now the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber (VA). I was twenty six years old when I took the position and realized very quickly that I was in over my head and needed help. Paul Ellsworth, the Chamber Executive of the Richmond Metro Chamber, drove up for my welcome reception and offered to serve as a sounding board and resource. Through Institute I got to know and became friends with Dick Blouse, who was in Lancaster, PA at the time. I engaged with ACCE and became friends with Eric Stowe. These three people were vital to my survival in those early years and helped me develop a firm foundation on which to build my career.

Regardless of the stage of your career, GACCE can benefit you. If you are in the early phase of your career, get engaged – establish a network of peers with whom you can vet your challenges and seek ideas. Find a mentor whom you can use as a sounding board. If you have a few years under your belt, volunteer to serve on a panel, facilitate a



**Douglas County**– The Chamber's Leadership Class of 2010 helped complete the S.H.A.R.E. House in Douglasville.

session at one of our events, offer yourself as a subject matter expert, or offer to mentor a newcomer to the business – in short give a little back!

I have been blessed with a long career in this business and as result have worked with a number of associations. I want you to know that our executive, Tiffany Fulmer, is one of the best I have ever worked with. She has become part of the fabric of GACCE and provides the foundation on which the volunteer leadership builds our programming. Tiffany, on behalf of the entire association, thank you for making what we do possible. May God Bless you and your husband on your wedding day and thereafter!

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## EVENTS CALENDAR



### GACCE Annual Conference

July 20 - 23, 2010  
Jekyll Island Club Hotel

Registration information for the 2010 Annual Conference will be sent soon. Save the date! [www.jekyllclub.com](http://www.jekyllclub.com)

#### April 29 – May 5

2010 Pine Tree Festival  
Swainsboro-Emanuel Chamber

#### April 30 – May 2

Lindbergh Boogie Aviation Festival  
Americus-Sumter County Chamber

#### May 1

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gnat Days Festival  
Camilla Chamber

#### May 1

Lake Hartwell Dam Run  
Hart County Chamber

#### May 4

First Tuesday Membership  
Breakfast, Barrow County Chamber

#### May 6

National Day of Prayer Breakfast  
Paulding Chamber

#### May 7

Chick-Fil-A Leadership Simulcast  
Camden County Chamber

#### May 11

Tenth Annual Golf Classic  
Barrow County Chamber

#### May 22

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bunco Bash  
Milledgeville-Baldwin Chamber

#### May 27

Taste of Ellijay  
Gilmer County Chamber

## PAST CHAIR ARTICLE

### Baby Boomers

**Nancy Kinsey**, *Executive Director*  
*Development Authority of Walton County*  
*1992-1993 Chair of GACCE*



I'm on the cusp of being a "baby boomer." (The generation born between 1946-1964). I was born on a hot July day while my Dad served in the Marine Corps in Iwo Jima, during World War II. (In fact, I was told that he did not see me until I was several months old). In thinking back over several past decades, I think the **baby boom** era is one that will go down in history.

Baby Boomers currently make up about 40% of the current labor force. This group has more education than those before them and it has been determined they will have more education than those that follow. This group has also had decades of on-the-job training.

More and more of my friends are talking and considering the big "R" factor – Retirement. There are many in the labor force that would have already retired if the economic recession had stayed away. Unfortunately, it didn't stay away and caused many workers to postpone their retirement for several more years.

It is estimated that from 2008 to 2018, about 34 million workers will retire or

change occupations. Perhaps more important than the numbers are the skills and experience that retirees will take with them. Boomers are the veterans of the work force. They fill many of the senior and most skilled positions in companies. Also, baby boomers have a strong work ethic and are near workaholics. It is going to be devastating to certain professions and industries as the boomers start leaving the workforce.

However, worrying about retirement savings has caused many people to rethink their retirement age. In a University of Michigan survey, it showed that 57% of older boomer men and 45% of older boomer women say they expect to work past 62.

I am seeing more and more of my friends working on their retirement plans and those plans include some provisions of working part-time. My buddies have not won the lottery, so I think the greeters at Wal-Mart are part-time. Maybe there is hope for me.

## Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education

"A Vision for Public Education in Georgia," an initiative to transform public education in our state, is being introduced to communities around Georgia at meetings designed to provide citizens an opportunity to have a voice in the plan. The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) and Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA) are the convening groups for the initiative. They hope to involve local Chambers of Commerce.

Both GSBA and GSSA believe that to truly transform education, communities need to embrace and carry forward the work

begun by the two groups. Their community conversations to engage citizens in this important work began in April and four remain in May.

**May 3** – 6:30 p.m. Morgan County High School, Madison

**May 4** – 6:30 p.m. Gwinnett County Instructional Support Center, Suwanee

**May 6** – 6:30 p.m. Lumpkin County High School, Dahlonega

**May 10** – 6:30 p.m. Lee County High School Ninth Grade Campus, Leesburg

For details go to [www.visionforpubliced.org](http://www.visionforpubliced.org).

## ■ CHAMBER FOLKS

### New GACCE Associate Member

GACCE is pleased to announce a new Associate Member – **Chamber Member Services**. Donn Ingemie, President/CEO will be in attendance at the GACCE Annual Conference in July as an Exhibitor. For more information on the company, please visit their website at: [www.chambermemberservices.com](http://www.chambermemberservices.com).

### New Executive at Covington-Newton County Chamber

Local businessman **Hunter Hall** has been hired as the President of the Chamber. At the same time, the Board decided to restructure the organization so that Hunter can focus 100% on building the Chamber's membership. Hunter comes to the Chamber as a founding partner of Solucion Consulting.



### New Executive Announced at Eastman-Dodge Chamber

The Chamber has announced that **Judy Madden** has been named the new President/CEO of the organization.

### Representative Marries at Georgia Transmission Corp.

**Jeannine Rispin Haynes**, Sr. PR Representative for the company, recently got married – congratulations!

## ■ 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](http://www.uschamber.com/Institute) or contact **Elyse Cochran** at (706) 278-7373.

## ■ CHAMBER UPDATES

### Albany Area Chamber

*Catherine Glover, President/CEO*

The Chamber honored all the armed forces at the Military Appreciation Rise N Shine Breakfast in March. More than 130 people attended the breakfast, sponsored by Artesian Construction and LRA Contractors, to show their appreciation and support.

A Wednesday in April pitted the civilians against the Marines in the semi annual Salty Sandbagger. After the golfers finished a box lunch served on the veranda, the battle began. In the end the Marines were victorious and took home the trophy.

Bishop Clean Care, Inc. was host to the April Business After Hours. This joint BAH between the Albany Area Chamber and the Lee County Chamber drew quite an impressive crowd. "Speed Networking," the Chamber's newest networking opportunity, was held before the April BAH. Twelve participants signed up for this easy and effective way to meet business customers/clients! Participants were paired and allowed five minutes to talk – when the bell rang individuals on one side of the table moved down a seat to meet someone new. Everyone left with innovative networking tips, a lot of new information, and essential business connections.

The Chamber teamed up with the City of Albany to welcome the Georgia Cities Heart & Soul Tour in April. The Chamber was in charge of the food and beverage portion of the multi-location event at Thronateeska Heritage Center and Flint RiverQuarium, as well as the "taste of downtown" dinner under a tent by the Flint River. They hosted over 50 developers, philanthropists, downtown groups, etc., from all over the state.

The Chamber provided members with the perfect way to show their appreciation for their assistants on Administrative Assistants Day in April. The Chamber hosted a luncheon at The Catch for more than 50 administrative assistants.

For the third year, Emerge Albany and The Albany Herald have teamed up to host a luncheon to pay tribute to



**Carroll County** – The Chamber recently hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Business & Education Bus Tour.

### Albany Area Chamber (continued)

Southwest Georgia's 40 under 40 honorees. To become a part of this group, nominations are taken and each nominee must fill out an application. The honorees are selected by a panel for this recognition of their community citizenry and accomplishments.

### Americus-Sumter County Chamber

*Angela Westra, President*

The Chamber is hosting the Lindbergh Boogie – An Aviation Festival from April 30 to May 2. The event will feature skydiving, plane rides, "Flying Feet" 5K Run, Hot Air Balloon Rides, food vendors, a Downtown "Block Bash," and many events for the kids. Erik Lindberg, grandson of Charles Lindbergh, will be the featured speaker at the Griffin B. Bell Convocation on April 30 at the South Georgia Technical College. The college will be dedicating a special monument and plaque highlighting Charles Lindbergh's first solo flight in 1923 from Souther Field Airport over the South Georgia Technical College site.

### Augusta Metro Chamber

*Sue Parr, President & CEO*

The Chamber was the guest of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry in March along with 22 other chambers from across the country. The trip included presentations and tours relating to their International Finance Center, Medical Center, Ports, Airport, Free Zone and other Dubai landmarks. Chamber President Sue Parr represented the Chamber on the trip.

In partnership with the Georgia Chamber, Georgia Allies, local development

## ■ CEO PROFILE



### Rhonda Lamb-Heath

*Executive Director*

Dooly County Chamber

Rhonda Lamb-Heath has been the Executive Director of the Dooly County Chamber since June 2005.

The Dooly County Chamber has a staff of three serving 150 members.

#### How did you get into the Chamber business?

I began as a volunteer with the organization in 1990 serving in several capacities for the State Barbecue Cooking Championship BIG PIG JIG®. During this time I became very good friends with the CEO and she thought I would be perfect for the Special Events position they had open in 2001. She encouraged me to make a change from Early Childhood Education to Special Events! The rest is history.

#### What do you like best about your job?

I love everything about my job; it is a pleasure to get up everyday and know we have something new and exciting to do in our community. I have been so blessed to have a wonderful board of directors that are very active and I have the pleasure to work with the greatest businesses, organizations, local governments, and staff anyone could ask for.

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

Like many small communities, we need new industry that will provide good sustainable jobs. We are luckier than some communities in the fact we are one of the few counties in the United States that is part of the United Empowerment Zones. Qualifying businesses in EZs are eligible for employment credits (up to \$3,000 yearly per EZ resident employed). Qualifying EZ businesses are also eligible for low-cost loans through EZ

## ■ CHAMBER UPDATES

### Augusta Metro Chamber (*continued*)

authorities and many private sector partners, the Chamber hosted the Red Carpet Tour and Augusta Showcase this year during the first week of April. This investment attraction program geared towards existing and new business expansion, coincides with the Masters® Golf Tournament each year as an opportunity to host top executives from around the world. This was 51<sup>st</sup> year of the Red Carpet Tour.

Over 30 business and community leaders representing the Aiken, Augusta Metro, Columbia County and North Augusta Chambers made their annual trip to Washington, DC in April this year. The group met with the region's elected officials and updated them on policy matters important to the Augusta Region.

Jeff Saut, Managing Director of Equity Research for Raymond James and well known for his insightful and colorful stock market commentary, was the guest speaker for the Chamber's Member Economic Luncheon in April. Mr. Saut appears often on various shows featured on CNBC, Bloomberg TV, USA Networks, Fox TV, NPR and is often quoted in numerous publications including The Wall Street Journal, Baron's and The New York Times. This event was attended by more than 100 people.

### Barrow County Chamber

*Tommy Jennings, President*

The Chamber's First Tuesday Membership Breakfast is scheduled for May 4 and will feature Dr. Wanda Creel, newly appointed Superintendent of Barrow County Schools.

The Chamber's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic will take place May 11 at Chateau Élan.



**Eatonton** – The Chamber graduated its 15<sup>th</sup> Leadership Putnam class.

### Camden County Chamber

*Christine Daniel, President/CEO*

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 on May 7.

### Camilla Chamber

*Eddie McCarty, Executive Director*

The Chamber and the Gnat Days Planning Committee are excited to announce some of the changes taking place at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gnat Days Festival being held Saturday, May 1, located in downtown Camilla. In addition to numerous Arts & Crafts and food vendors, there will be live entertainment on the stage all day! Entertainment will include a hotdog eating contest sponsored by Diggity Dogs, an animal show put on by the Flint River Quarium, and singing performances including The Harper Trio, Mary Beth Morris, and the 2009 "Clash of the Choirs" winner, The Jones Family, just to name a few.

### Carroll County Chamber

*Daniel Jackson, President/CEO*

The Chamber's Workforce/Education Committee hosted the second annual Business & Education Bus Tour in April. Following the Chamber's quarterly membership breakfast featuring a presentation by Debra Lyons, Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, the group set off on an exploration of higher learning impacts on business and industry. First stop included the West Georgia Technical College-Carrollton campus with visits to the welding, automotive, electronics and cosmetology departments. The group then traveled to the University of West Georgia Coliseum for presentations by President Sethna, faculty and staff, including an update on current economic trends in Carroll County. The bus tour was a follow up to last year's program featuring business leaders visiting Carroll County Schools, Carrollton City Schools, and Oak Mountain Academy.

### Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber

*Kay Read, President & CEO*

The Chamber marked Georgia Manufacturing Appreciation Week (April

## ■ CEO PROFILE

### Rhonda Lamb-Heath

*Executive Director*  
Dooly County Chamber

facility bond. Being able to offer these additional incentives is great recruiting tool for us.

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

My executive committee. I have been very fortunate to have a very active group and the majority has been with me since I started with the Chamber either as a board member, committee chair or on the Executive Committee. We have a strong bond and great working relationship!

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

When I started I had lots of questions and called on other Chamber Executives. They have a wealth of knowledge and everyone I contacted was very helpful and very willing to share with me. I would like to pay it forward to any new Executive that may need my assistance!

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

Believe it or not, I wanted to be the first girl to play in the NFL. Unfortunately I never made it to the pros, but I still love football! Sports were always huge in my family. I was an athlete and my father was an all star athlete in high school & college lettering in many sports. After graduation he went on to coach high school sports, so sports were instilled in us from an early age!

## ■ JUNE 2010 Newsletter

The deadline for the  
**JUNE**  
GACCE newsletter will be  
**Friday, May 21, 2010.**  
Please send updates to  
Tiffany Fulmer at  
[tfulmer@gacce.org](mailto:tfulmer@gacce.org).

## ■ CHAMBER UPDATES

### Cartersville-Bartow Chamber (cont.)

12-16) by organizing tours of four local manufacturers and hosting an awards breakfast. Georgia Work Ready sponsored the breakfast with Department of Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond the guest speaker. Award nominees in the Expanding Industry category included Aquafil USA and Heatco, Inc., with the Manufacturer of the Year Award going to Zep, Inc. Nominees in the Existing Industry category included Toyo Tire North America Manufacturing, Inc. and Anheuser-Busch Inc., with the Manufacturer of the Year award going to TI Automotive. Adding to the week, Cartersville-Bartow County Economic Development sponsored a golf tournament for manufacturers and developers.

### Cobb Chamber

*Don Beaver, Interim President*

Chuck Papandrea was named the 2009 Ambassador of the Year at the Chamber's First Monday Breakfast in March. Papandrea was voted by his Ambassador peers as deserving of this honor for his dedication to serving new members through the Ambassador program. Papandrea's involvement at the Cobb Chamber is not limited to just the Ambassador Program, he is also involved in both the Leads to Success and Business Builders programs.

The Chamber is proud to announce a brand new opportunity for Chamber members and their immediate families to save money. Brandsmart USA has partnered with the Chamber to offer its Affinity savings program. This program is now open for enrollment. All members enrolled will receive exclusive pricing on items both in the store and online. Chamber members will also have exclusive access to the Chamber portal on Brandsmart USA's website. To enroll visit [www.cobbchamber.org](http://www.cobbchamber.org).

### Cordele-Crisp Chamber

*Monica Simmons, GCCE, President*

The Chamber held the Professional Administrators Luncheon in April which was a huge success with lunch, entertainment and door prizes.

The Chamber is gearing up for the 61<sup>st</sup> Watermelon Days Festival to be held



**Cartersville** – Connie Smith and Kay Read check out some stand-up guys at Chief Container Co., Inc. in Acworth.

### Cordele-Crisp Chamber (cont.)

June 5- 26 with lots of events, a parade, arts and crafts, and a dance.

Work is still ongoing with remodeling the new Chamber Facility. Plans are to move in late summer.

### Dalton-Whitfield Chamber

*Brian Anderson, President & CEO*

The Leadership Dalton-Whitfield program celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary with a Black Tie event honoring the program Founders. Approximately 200 were in attendance.

A Campaign Academy workshop was recently held for those wishing to run for office or to help organize a political campaign.

### Douglas County Chamber

*Kali Boatright, President & CEO*

The Chamber hosted its fifth annual Business-to-Community EXPO in April. The event was held at Arbor Place Mall and featured over 50 booths for local businesses and organizations to promote their products and services. Special guest, 2010 Olympic Bob Sled Bronze Medalist and hometown girl, Elana Meyers, was present and entertained the crowd by signing autographs and posing for photos.

The Chamber recently presented the 2010 Business Success Seminar – a marketing workshop designed to share tips and ideas on advertising and marketing businesses during a challenging economy. Guest Speaker Leonard Woolsey, Times-Georgian publisher, gave examples to attendees about marketing techniques that are inexpensive and effective.

## ■ GEORGIA CHAMBER

### Another Successful Red Carpet Tour Brings Prospects to Georgia

The 51<sup>st</sup> annual Red Carpet Tour wrapped up on April 10 after four action-packed days touring the state. This year, 26 guests from all over the world attended, each one representing a successful company looking to expand or relocate to Georgia. Since its inception in 1959, the Red Carpet Tour has generated more than \$3.2 billion in revenue and brought over 15,000 jobs to our state.

Red Carpet Tour guests attended a dinner and reception at the Governor's Mansion, spent two days watching the Masters® Golf Tournament in Augusta, and traveled to Brunswick to enjoy a day at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel.

The Georgia Chamber hosted the Red Carpet Tour® along with the Georgia Allies, a public-private economic development partnership, and the Augusta Metro Chamber.

### More Power Lunch Dates Announced

The Georgia Chamber has announced more dates for the organization's Power Lunch series! The lunches, which kick off at the Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place in Duluth on May 6, will move across the state and offer guests timely information about key business issues on the state and federal levels. Community leaders, Chamber of Commerce executives, and anyone wanting to know more about how these issues will affect business are encouraged to attend.

To view the most up-to-date list of Power Lunches, visit [www.gachamber.com/powerlunch](http://www.gachamber.com/powerlunch). Contact **Ginger McNeight** at **404.223.2269** with questions about the Power Lunches.

## ■ CHAMBER UPDATES

### Douglas County Chamber (cont.)

The Chamber's Leadership Douglas Class of 2010 completed their service project which focused on the S.H.A.R.E. House in Douglasville which houses battered women and children. The class collected donated items and goods to renovate the entire back yard of the house complete with new equipment and landscaping. The class of 23 students will graduate the 10-month program in May.

### Eatonton-Putnam Chamber Roddie Anne Blackwell, President

In early March, the Chamber became a red carpet event complete with a sea of A-list celebrity personalities and one unfortunate victim. As the evening progressed, so did the web of lies and scandals ultimately leading guests to discover the 'murderer.' The event marked the Chamber's third Murder Mystery Dinner Theater fundraiser.

The Chamber graduated the 15<sup>th</sup> Leadership Putnam Class of 21 students in March. The 2010 class spent nine weeks getting to know the county and each other through various community classes which included such topics as Socio-demographics, Valuing Community Diversity, Understanding Values, Conducting Successful Meetings, Effective Communications, ED, Building Communities through Collaboration as well as a retreat to St. Simons, and the Low and High Ropes Courses at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

### Gilmer County Chamber Paige Green, President

The Chamber will host the Taste of Ellijay on May 27. The event will be a unique culinary experience in historic downtown Ellijay.



**Milledgeville** – The Chamber's golf tournament closed with the ceremonious golf ball drop where someone won \$2,000.

### Greater Columbus Chamber

*Mike Gaymon, GCCE, President & CEO*

Raytheon Company recently held an open house for its new Soldier Works Warrior Integration Center. The center will improve collaboration with military and industry in the development and testing of new soldier systems and other innovative technologies.

The Chamber's Young Professionals (YP) recently held their first Cocktails and Company at Green Island Country Club. Thirty young professionals listened intently for an hour as St. Francis CEO Robert Granger shared lessons from his personal leadership journey. He also touched on a few issues that have a direct impact on the Greater Columbus region. Cocktails and Company is a quarterly Leadership Committee program of YP. This event gives young professionals first hand access to the leaders of our community.

Chamber Board of Director Members Cedric Hill (the 2010 Chair of the Black Business Outreach [BBO]), Travis Chambers, and William Taylor, are remaking BBO in 2010. In tireless fashion since November of last year, these three have been meeting with groups of African-American business and community leaders to forge a new relevance, vision, and mission for the Chamber's outreach to Black Businesses.

More than 400 people turned out for the Partners In Education Banquet in April. McBride Elementary School won the Partnership of the Year award for the 2009-2010. The school received a \$1,000 check to continue and/or grow its successful initiatives. There are currently more than 200 partnerships amongst 88 schools in five school districts.

### Greater Macon Chamber Chip Cherry, CCE, President

The Chamber has a very involved and growing Young Professionals Network (YPN). The group currently has over 150 members participating in monthly activities including Lunch and Learns, community service events, and social events. In April, YPN held a Business Etiquette and Wine Tasting Event where the group learned professional business etiquette over an array of fabulous wines presented by a well known sommelier. Over 50 people were in attendance.

## ■ GEORGIA CHAMBER

### Hire Work Ready Showcase to be Held on May 20

On May 20, the State Workforce Investment Board will host a special luncheon showcasing **Hire Work Ready**, the state's new initiative designed to help small businesses grow. The meeting will feature a memorable spotlight on a Georgia small business that demonstrates how easy and important it is to take advantage of Georgia Work Ready.

At the luncheon, Georgia Representative Terry England will be honored for his support of Georgia Work Ready. Charles Tarbutton, assistant vice president, Sandersville Railroad Company and chairman, Georgia Chamber of Commerce Education Policy Committee, will be the special guest.

The luncheon will open with registration at 11:00 a.m. and will be held at the Floyd Veterans Memorial Building, West Tower Empire Room, 20<sup>th</sup> floor. To RSVP for this event, please contact **Linda Pinkney** at [lpinkney@gov.state.ga.us](mailto:lpinkney@gov.state.ga.us) by May 7, 2010.

## ■ Georgia DHS

### TeenWork Jobs Program

The Georgia Department of Human Services is helping youth aged 14-18 learn new work skills while earning income this summer. **TeenWork** jobs are available June 1 to July 31, 2010. The jobs pay \$8.50 an hour for up to 35 hours a week.

TeenWork allows business owners to strengthen their business at no cost. TeenWork provides a 100% subsidy for businesses employing qualified youth. Employers will not have to seek reimbursement. Employees will be paid using funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Call **888-884-4712** for information.

## ■ CHAMBER UPDATES

### Gwinnett Chamber

*Jim Maran, President & CEO*

Encompass Group Affiliates, Inc., a market leader in parts distribution and repair services for a wide range of high-tech products and consumer electronics – in partnership with Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Chamber – are pleased to announce the relocation and expansion of one of the company's divisional headquarters to Gwinnett County. The move of Encompass subsidiary, Encompass Service Solutions, Inc. (ESS), will create approximately 100 new jobs for Gwinnett, of which the majority will be new hires and the remainder will relocate from ESS' current Florida-based facility.

NCR – in partnership with Georgia Department of Economic Development, Georgia Power, Gwinnett County and the Chamber – celebrated the official opening of its global corporate headquarters in Duluth. Since their June 2009 announcement, the company's corporate campus in Duluth has grown to 409,000 square feet and the process of hiring and relocating has been underway for several months.

### Harris County Chamber

*Lynda Dawson, President*

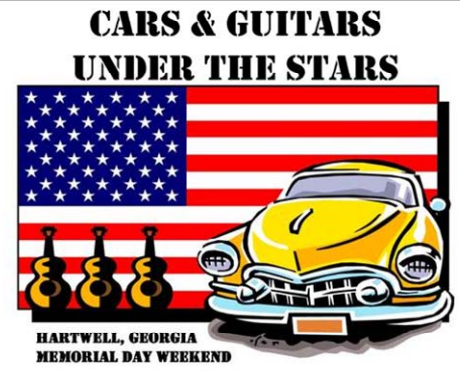
The Chamber hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Wheels O'Fire Cycle Tour in March, and 453 participants rode either the 26, 45, 68, 101 mile onroad route – or the new 15-mile mountain bike course at Canaan Farm. The event is a fundraiser for the Chamber and the Volunteer Firefighters of Harris County who staff most of the 12 rest stops. Many sponsors and volunteers, including the LaGrange HAM Radio Club made it possible. A day of sunny weather contributed to a successful event.

### Hart County Chamber

*Michele Dipert, President*

The Lake Hartwell Dam Run will be held May 1 at Big Oaks Recreation Area. This event attracts about 1,000 runners each year.

Cars & Guitars, Under the Stars will be on May 29. This is the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and downtown Hartwell will be alive with a free



**Hart County** – This free festival will take place in downtown Hartwell on Memorial Day Weekend.

### Hart County Chamber (*continued*)

festival. Classic Cars from all over the Southeast will gather around the Hartwell Downtown Square.

### Milledgeville-Baldwin County Chamber

*Tara Peters, GCCE, President & CEO*

The Chamber recently held their annual golf tournament at the Milledgeville Country Club in April. About 100 golfers participated in the event. The event closed with the ceremonious golf ball drop in which \$2,000 was awarded to one lucky winner, Tullie Jones. The golf tournament is one of the largest Chamber fundraisers.

The Chamber is currently planning for their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bunco Bash to be held May 22 at La Fete. This is absolutely the most fun you can have with dice without going to Vegas! Last year, over 100 participants, all women, showed up for a night of fun, male waiters, and great prizes. For more information on the Bunco Bash, please contact the Chamber office at 478-453-9311.

The Chamber has held several wonderful workshops for Small Business which have included E-Commerce (marketing your business through the internet) and "Is Your Website Working for You?" These workshops are monthly brown-bag lunch series for businesses and entrepreneurs.

### Paulding Chamber

*Carolyn Delamont, President*

The Chamber will host a National Day of Prayer Breakfast on May 6 with Governor Sonny Perdue as the keynote speaker. That evening the Chamber will host the LGE Credit Union – Lee Greenwood "Celebrate America" Concert

## ■ Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute

### Luring Manufacturers to the Coast

Firth Rixson Limited, a provider of highly engineered forged metal products, recently announced its expansion to Midway in Liberty County, citing the new location's proximity to Georgia Tech Savannah as a significant incentive. The 200,000-square-foot facility will provide components for the aerospace industry, and will create at least 200 local jobs.

In Midway, Firth Rixson Forgings will have convenient access to the pipeline of talented graduates and research expertise at Georgia Tech's Savannah campus. Ranked among the top 10 public universities in the United States by *U.S. News & World Report*, Georgia Tech is an active partner to aerospace and other industries, providing them a competitive advantage in the global marketplace.

Working with Georgia Tech's Strategic Partners Office, Firth Rixson officials learned about a broad range of resources and expertise at Georgia Tech, in collaboration with the Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP) of the University System of Georgia. Strategic Partners Officer Greg King provided information to the company about Georgia Tech's capabilities in industrial and systems engineering, management, metallurgy and

materials, tribology, advanced manufacturing, and aerospace structures.

In addition, Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute will assist the company through its statewide network of field staff with expertise in process improvement, production design, sustainability and automation.

Firth Rixson's Midway operation will be known as Firth Rixson Forgings LLC, and will be the company's largest greenfield investment. The new facility will also become Firth Rixson's fourth closed die forging facility. The majority of the more than 200 anticipated jobs will be filled from the local community, with hiring for human resources positions beginning immediately.

The aerospace industry plays a significant role in Georgia's economy, and provides more than 80,000 jobs for aircraft manufacturers and aerospace suppliers.

*The Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute helps companies, entrepreneurs, economic developers and communities improve their competitiveness through the application of science, technology and innovation. It is one of the most comprehensive university-based programs of business and industry assistance, technology commercialization and economic development in the nation.*

## ■ CHAMBER UPDATES

### Paulding Chamber (cont.)

at the Dallas Historical Theater. The concert will honor soldiers who have recently returned home from the Afghanistan and Iraq. What a Chamber of Commerce Day in Paulding County!

### Swainsboro-Emanuel County Chamber Bill Rogers, Jr., Executive Director

The Swainsboro/Emanuel County Festival Foundation, Inc. has announced plans for the 2010 Pine Tree Festival and Southeast Timber Exposition which will be held April 24 through May 5. The three "big" days for the event will be April 29 - May 1 at the Swainsboro/Emanuel County Recreational Complex. Leading the way will be a Friday night concert featuring country sensations Bucky Covington and Jimmy Wayne. A FMX Freestyle Motorcycle Exhibition Stunt Show, Masters of the Chainsaw, and The Parks at Chehaw will be featured entertainment for the event. Back for a second year will be the Pine Tree Festival and Southeast Timber EXPO Logging Competition. The McLeod Moring SCV Camp and Emanuel Rangers UDC Chapter 2318 will again present "Camp McLeod," a living history re-enactment. Another new event added to this year's festival will be a "Forestry Field Day" for landowners, timber growers, and wildlife enthusiasts. The 2010 festival will feature many familiar events from recent years such as forestry equipment display, antique car show, beauty pageants, races, a grand parade hosted by the Shriners, flower show, arts and crafts, barbeque cook-off, battle of the bands, helicopter rides, and more.



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