

GACCE

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION of CHAMBER of COMMERCE EXECUTIVES

■ OCTOBER 2009



Chairman's Corner

Chip Cherry, CCE
President
Greater Macon Chamber

Finding, keeping, and nurturing volunteer leadership is vital to success in our field. When I started in this business I believed that the cream would rise to the top, and I left the identification of new officers to the nominating committee. I learned the hard way that cream is not the only thing that rises to the top. I would suggest that you need to take an active role in the identification and development of your leadership.

How do you find them, and once identified, how do you nurture them? Here are some suggestions:

- Look for individuals who have a passion for moving the community forward.
- Avoid people who are self promoters – the ones who always want to be in the spotlight.
- Watch how they behave in group situations – how do they win people over to their position, and more importantly how do they react if the group does not adopt their suggestion.
- Spend some time getting to know them and try to gain an understanding of what makes them tick.
- Engage them in committee positions or in other roles where you can see them in action.
- I have learned to avoid (or to view with skepticism) those individuals that lobby for a leadership role. While there are exceptions to this rule, I have found that the majority of these individuals are shallow and are in it for their gratification, not for the benefit of the organization.
- Don't misread thoughtful consideration as reluctance to serve. Some of my best Vice Chairs and Chairs are people whom I met with a couple of times before they said yes.

■ News Bytes...

➤ Georgia Tech Helps City of Savannah Reduce Energy Consumption

Find out how your city and county can take advantage of energy audits conducted by the Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute for local governments – they can also be a potential source of receiving stimulus money! Copy the link below into your Internet browser to read more:
<http://innovate.gatech.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=32&NewsID=224>

➤ RBC Searching for New Executive Director

Originally created in 1997, the Regional Business Coalition is made up of 14 chambers and business organizations in the 13 county metro Atlanta region representing over 17,000 business members. The Executive Director of the RBC is responsible for the overall operation and management of the organization. For more information on how to apply, contact **Stephen Riddell** at (404) 885-3408.



Toccoa – The Chamber and city are getting ready for the 7th Annual WWII Reunion Weekend in October. Re-enactors are shown here in paratrooper uniforms.

These are a few suggestions that you may find helpful. If you have suggestions or thoughts you would like to share, please send them to me at ccherry@maconchamber.com. I would like to share them in a future newsletter.

I encourage you to make plans to attend the Leadership Conference at Lake Blackshear, November 12th & 13th. The committee has planned a great conference which I am sure you and your chair will find very rewarding.

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EVENTS CALENDAR



GACCE Leadership Conference

November 12 & 13, 2009
Cordele, GA

You don't want to miss this great training opportunity for your incoming Board members. Register today!

October 2 – 4

7th Annual WWII Reunion Weekend
Toccoa-Stephens County Chamber

October 5

5th Annual Chamber Golf Classic
DeKalb Chamber

October 7

2009 Chamber Golf Classic
Chatsworth-Murray County Chamber

October 7 & 8

Membership Drive
Albany Area Chamber

October 15

Taste of Camden
Camden County Chamber

October 17

46th Annual Georgia Peanut Festival
Sylvester-Worth County Chamber

October 24 & 25

3rd Annual Fall for Chatsworth Festival
Chatsworth-Murray County Chamber

October 26

Legislative Listening Day
Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber

October 27

Surviving & Thriving Seminar
Pickens County Chamber

October 29

Keeping Business in Bartow Expo
Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber

PAST CHAIR ARTICLE

Tough Times; Simple Pleasures

Tim Chason, President, *The Chason Group, Inc.*
1990-1991 GACCE Chair



Serving in a leadership role for a chamber of commerce, economic development agency or a business, you are most likely faced with people of all shapes, sizes *and attitudes* every day. You are in the spotlight – the big leagues, on your way to bigger and better positions, building a name for yourself. You are in charge of your own destiny.

Are you really? Are you the big fish in a little pond or a fish in a pond that continues to get smaller in today's economic crisis? Is there another position for you where you think the grass is greener or is it just another field that has to be mowed?

Leaders are facing challenges in communities all across Georgia, and the country for that matter, and are now using terms which have rarely been in their vocabulary: furloughs, reduction in pay, budget realignment, and the list goes on. There is no single business or community leader that can honestly say they are not seeing, and in most cases feeling, a financial change happening around them. Friends are without jobs; families are digging into savings; taxes are increasing; homes are being foreclosed on. Again, the list goes on.

But with all of these challenging thoughts and realities in mind, there are still simple pleasures in life that we all tend to forget from time. I want to share my "Top Ten Simple Pleasures". I hope some may resonate with you.

Number 10. Watching a sitcom or funny movie with your significant other and enjoying a laugh together.

Number 9. Making plans to spend time with family for the holidays.

Number 8. Calling a friend or colleague, possibly someone that is down on their luck, to let them know you are thinking about them.

Number 7. Walking down a dirt road in South Georgia and enjoying the peace and quiet.

Number 6. Sitting down to a real home cooked meal with friends and family on a Saturday night.

Number 5. Watching someone you have mentored speak in front of a group with all of the confidence in the world.

Number 4. Walking on a Georgia beach late in the afternoon and following the sea gulls.

Number 3. Having your daughter call from the University of Georgia to say she made a 99 on her first "big" college chemistry test and that she loves you.

Number 2. Going to church on Sunday and understanding you are not in control, He is.

Number 1. Seeing the smile on someone's face when you speak two simple words showing your respect and appreciation: Thank You.

I may have turned 50-years-old this year. And, I may be predictable and stuck in my ways. But, I will always appreciate simple pleasures including great friends and acquaintances that continue to be a part of my life. Take time to appreciate those around you. The lifetime dividends are incredible.

Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education

Applications Now Being Accepted for 17th Annual Bus Trip Across Georgia

The GPEE is now taking applications to participate in the 17th Annual Bus Trip Across Georgia. The event both celebrates achievement in Georgia's public schools and shares best practices with influencers from across the state.

The tour will be conducted **October 27 – 29** and will visit six high achieving schools. The theme this year is "Georgia's Public Schools: Achieving Results Through Innovation." There is no cost to

participate. You do not have to ride the bus to be included. Individual site visits are encouraged.

Visit the Georgia Partnership web site at www.gpee.org (Annual Bus Trip page) for more information, including videos of previous trips, and a link to the online application. Information is also available by calling 404-223-2464.



GEORGIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

GACCE exists to provide exceptional services to its members in the areas of professional development, information, and networking opportunities, and to advocate the local chamber's role in economic and community development.

CHAMBER FOLKS

Cobb Executive Announces Retirement

William "Bill" Cooper recently announced his retirement as President & CEO of the Chamber. He will remain in the position through the end of 2009. Bill served as Chair of GACCE from 2003-2004.



Resignation Announced at Covington-Newton Chamber

Chamber President **John Boothby** recently resigned from his position. He stated he will be focusing on his personal life and other business pursuits including consulting work and writing.



New Staffer at Gilmer County Chamber

The Chamber welcomes **Candace Todd** in the position of Information Specialist. Candace will greet visitors and members, oversee the Welcome Center on a daily basis, and assist with Chamber sponsored events.

Staff Updates at LaGrange-Troup County Chamber

Vice-President of Member Services **Melody Reaves** was recently given a mantel clock, a mini-vacation, and a gift certificate to honor her twenty years of service to the Chamber.



Laura Jennings joined the Chamber staff on September 1 as Tourism Director. She hit the ground running by attending the Governor's Conference on Tourism her first day on the job.



CHAMBER UPDATES

Albany Area Chamber

Catherine Glover, President/CEO

Todd Long, the new Director of Planning for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), spoke to representatives from cities across Southwest Georgia at the Chamber as part of a day-long trip to focus on transportation issues in the area. One of the most pressing issues brought to Long's attention was the four-laning of State Highway 133 from Albany to Valdosta. Long also announced that the Broad Avenue Bridge, connecting East & West Albany into the heart of downtown, was going to be replaced. The bridge has been closed since February after GDOT officials found structural damage.

The Chamber's Cats With Clubs Charity Golf Tournament presented two checks each for \$1,112 to the Albany Area Chamber Foundation and United Way Cats for Kids at a press conference held in September.

The September Business After Hours was held at the Albany Museum of Art. There was tons of great food catered by Locos Bar & Grill, music and lots of networking with over 175 people attending.

The Chamber treated volunteers to a down home southern lunch catered by Ole Time Country Buffet. The Chamber is gearing up for a Membership Drive to be held October 7 & 8, so the luncheon was two-fold: to say thank you to the volunteers and to briefly give an orientation about how the membership drive is going to work. The Membership Drive will be a Halloween themed phone-a-thon...no tricks just treats for the volunteers.

Camden County Chamber

Christine Daniel, President

The Chamber's Taste of Camden event will be held October 15 at the Camden Leisure Services Center.

Carroll County Chamber

Daniel Jackson, President/CEO

The Chamber's Workforce / Education Committee hosted the Business & Education Bus Tour in September where local business leaders learned more about the unique educational programs available for Carroll County students preparing to enter the workforce. The bus stops included the Carroll County School's REACH program, an Early College Partnership of Carroll County Schools and the University of West Georgia providing middle schoolers the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and one to two years of transferable college credit. A stop at Oak Mountain Academy highlighted their Earth Science curriculum and outdoor



Albany – Chamber Ambassadors are ready to greet the crowds as they arrive for a recent BAH.

Carroll County Chamber (*continued*)

gardens and trail system. Finally, Carrollton High School's stop focused on the hands-on Career Pathways technical education classes including Architectural Design, Graphic Design and Broadcast Video Production classes.

Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber

Kay Read, President

The Chamber is hosting a Legislative Listening Day, October 26, in the Chamber Boardroom. This event is an opportunity to meet one-on-one with members of their state delegation. Appointments with the five legislators will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

The "Keeping Business in Bartow" Expo will showcase area businesses on October 29 at The Church at Liberty Square in Cartersville. The Chamber will also hold a Vendor Workshop before the event.

Chatsworth-Murray County Chamber

Dinah Rowe, GCCE, President

The 2009 Chamber Golf Classic will take place October 7 at the Springs Lake Course.

The 3rd Annual Fall for Chatsworth Festival is scheduled for October 24 & 25 in beautiful downtown Chatsworth.

Cobb Chamber

Bill Cooper, President & CEO

The Chamber leads with innovation with the addition of the Chamber Newsroom on its web site, www.cobbchamber.org. The Chamber Newsroom is a place for members to easily find information about the Chamber, the county's economic development activities, small business issues, the community and additional resources. The Chamber Newsroom features links to the Chamber's Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn pages, award-winning *Cobb in Focus* magazine, *DIRECT* newsletter, press releases, Chamber E-Newsletter, Cobb County's *CobbLine* E-Newsletter and much

CEO PROFILE



Catherine Glover

President/CEO
Albany Area Chamber

How did you get into the Chamber business?

I worked for the University of Maine system in Orono, Maine in the late 80's and early 90's, and during that time I had frequent opportunities to interact with two separate organizations: the regional Chamber (Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce) and the multi-regional economic development organization EMDC (Eastern Maine Development Corporation). After six years at UMaine, I decided that my love of community and my burning desire to affect change would be best served through either economic development or through Chamber work. So...I applied for a job working for EMDC, in its SBDC and Lending division, and worked there for about three years; still maintaining close relationships with the Chamber. But in the end, it was the all encompassing aspect of business and community development that a Chamber offers that appealed to me the most. I then accepted my first official "Chamber" job as Director of Promotions and Marketing with the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce in Bangor, Maine.

What do you like best about your job?

Without a doubt, the most intrinsically rewarding and overtly satisfying part of my job is working with the business community as a clearinghouse of resources and information. When I have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with a company, share ideas with them, brainstorm solutions, facilitate connectivity and help them "acquire the means to thrive," there is no better feeling in the world. Tied for the second best part about my job is tourism and advocacy. I'm fortunate to not only serve as the President/CEO of the Chamber, but also to the CVB. Tourism is such a dynamic and ever-changing economic and community development tool, and with tourism comes many, many opportunities to promote and market. Creatively seeking myriad and unique ways to market has been in my blood since I was very young. Regarding advocacy, especially now that we have a

CHAMBER UPDATES

Cobb Chamber (continued)

more. The Newsroom also unveiled Chamber INK, the official Cobb Chamber blog. Chamber INK is a place to stay up to date on important issues and information on the Chamber and Cobb community. Chamber INK also will offer Chamber members the chance to post their business news and updates for other Chamber members, community residents and business leaders to see, as well as the chance to give testimonials about the Chamber.

Dalton-Whitfield Chamber

Brian Anderson, President & CEO

The Chamber, in collaboration with the Dalton-Whitfield Joint Development Authority, recently announced that IVS US would build its North American Headquarters and manufacturing facility in Dalton. IVC currently operates a small distribution facility in Dalton employing 35 people. The new headquarters and manufacturing operations will create an additional 115 jobs and \$70 million in capital investment. This latest economic development project is the third in the last two years with all three projects being with existing industries within the greater Dalton community.

The Chamber held its 6th Annual Business Expo in September. The focus was on doing business locally, and over 90 exhibitors were part of the show. Résumé reviews and business enhancement sessions were also part of the Expo.

Whitfield County has been awarded a \$35,000 grant to create momentum toward reaching the goal of becoming a Certified Work Ready community. Georgia's Work Ready initiative is based upon a skills assessment and certificate for job seekers and a job profiling system for businesses.



Douglas – The county is still reeling from the damage the recent flood left. To help out, please see the news story to the right.

DeKalb Chamber

Leonardo McClarty, President

The Chamber recently kicked off its annual membership and resource development campaign. Titled, "The Return of the Chamber: Breaking Tomorrow's Barriers," the Chamber is seeking to raise \$100,000 over a 10 to 12 week period. During this initiative, corporate volunteer's will look to enlist new members, generate program and event sponsorships, sell advertising in Chamber publications and raise the awareness of the Chamber throughout the region. Leading this effort will be John Kelley, East Metro Area Manager of Georgia Power and Darryl Ford, Owner and General Manager of Stone Mountain Chrysler Jeep Dodge.

The 5th Annual Chamber Golf Classic is set for October 5 at the Stone Mountain Golf Club. A golf clinic will also be held for those interested in learning the game of golf with Stone Mountain Golf Club instructor Heidi Mitchell, a LPGA tour professional with 17 years of teaching experience.

Douglas County Chamber

Kali Boatright, President

As floodwaters in the Metro Atlanta area receded, Douglas County residents grapple on with the damage that has left them homeless, uprooted their lives and shut down bridges and major roadways. Douglas County, about 23 miles west of the city of Atlanta, was hit by 21 inches of rain from Sunday to Monday, knocking out the drinking water supply to thousands of residents and forcing others to boil their water. On Wednesday, the authorities dispensed bottled water, checked abandoned cars for bodies and swept debris from mud-caked streets. Churches and local radio stations collected food and clothes. Volunteers canoed to soggy homes in search of waterlogged belongings. I-20, a main interstate leading to Atlanta, re-opened after 11 a.m. on Wednesday, while only two bridges spanning the flooded Chattahoochee River remained closed, helping the county slowly return to its operations. If you are interested in helping with the relief efforts, there are 3 main organizations giving aid in Douglas County: A Gift of Love Services of West Georgia, The Pantry, and Faith in Action. Residents are in need of everything from clothing, smaller house hold items (blankets, sheets, linens, pillows, silverware, cleaning supplies, etc.) to large scale items like beds, mattresses, etc. There is an immediate need for non-perishable food items, personal hygiene items, and cleaning supplies. For more information on how to help, please call the Chamber at 770-942-5022.

Dublin-Laurens County Chamber

Willie Paulk, GCCE, President

The Chamber held the 5th Annual Chamber Membership Luncheon in August at the Chamber. Over 300 members enjoyed a lunch of hamburgers

■ CEO PROFILE

Catherine Glover

President/CEO
Albany Area Chamber

registered lobbyist on board; I love to roll up my sleeves and work with the Chamber's dynamic grass roots advocacy team supporting and introducing "proactive, progressive and pro-business" change that really matters.

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

Poverty and all of its endemic and societal ills.

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

Because serving a Chamber allows many of us opportunities to interact with people that we might not normally have the good fortune to work with, there have been numerous people who have helped to "school me." I'd have to say the most influential, however, was a gentleman by the name of Paul Kelly who served as the Treasurer of the Board of Directors for the Freeport Merchants Association in Freeport, Maine. I worked as the FMA's Executive Director for about six years earlier in my career. Paul is a very soft spoken, astute and wise man. He is also a very shrewd and very successful business owner and commercial developer. He could crunch numbers with the best of them, and worked with me as a team to learn how to best leverage absolutely every opportunity, always helping me to remember how important service to the community is. That being said, Paul also helped me to *really* learn the inner workings and benefits of social networking; long before the phrase was coined. As a result, at an early stage in my professional development, I embraced the concept of relational capital.

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

To new Execs.: Welcome aboard! You've just begun one of the most privileged, rewarding and challenging careers you could have chosen. One of the biggest challenges I've experienced throughout my Chamber career is the challenge of moving mountains with a teaspoon, and knowing that success lies in authoritative leadership, a dedication to staff and volunteers, and a strategic and focused mission.

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■ CHAMBER UPDATES

Dublin-Laurens Chamber (cont.)

and hot dogs. Members were asked to bring items to send to the Alpha Co. 148th Brigade. Attendees were also entertained by patriotic songs performed by Dick Burrell.

The Chamber is hosting UGA's Small Business Development Center's Max Marketing series. The five week course was made available through an OneGeorgia Authority grant.

Elbert County Chamber

Phyllis Brooks, President

The Granite City Fall Festival will be held in Elbert County on November 7. The Festival will begin at 9:00am and end at 5:00pm. Come visit the Granite Capital of the World and enjoy arts, crafts, entertainment, great food, granite demonstrations, granite tours, granite exhibits, live animals at the 4-H Corner and much, much more!

Greater Columbus Chamber

Mike Gaymon, GCCE, President & CEO

The Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA) recently recognized the Chamber for an "outstanding achievement in the location / expansion of business in Georgia." Columbus was recognized in the Regional category because of the NCR project that was recently announced. The Chamber's economic development department, led by Becca Hardin, is also the professional staff for the Development Authority of Columbus, as well as The Valley Partnership.

The Chamber recently supported the Muscogee County School District's Special Local Option Sales Tax. The SPLOST passed in September, and the final vote was similar to the results from the survey of Chamber Members held in July. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the Chamber passed a resolution to support the SPLOST vote.

The Chamber welcomed the Georgia Work Ready Regions Grant Project Leaders to the National Infantry Museum in September for a reception and dinner. Georgia Work Ready was in Columbus for three days of workshops. It also included a tour of the National Infantry Museum.

Imagine wine tasting, food, good art, music and friends. That's the experience you missed if you did not attend this year's Corks and Canvas held in September. The Chamber's Young Professionals and the Columbus Museum Contemporaries successfully held their 2nd annual Corks and Canvas at the Columbus Museum. More than 100 young professionals braved the weather and networked the night away for a successful event.



Catoosa – Members and staff alike enjoyed the Chamber's recent tailgating event.

Greater Hall Chamber

Kit Dunlap, President & CEO

The official ground-breaking ceremony for the new Gainesville Business Park was held in September. This 200 acre park is a public private partnership between the City of Gainesville, Hall County and Pattillo Construction Company.

The Atlanta Falcons, headquartered in Flowery Branch, hosted the annual update for Chamber members in September. This is one of the featured meetings for Chamber members in South Hall County. The Falcons are having a good season – we are proud of them.

HealthSmart, the annual interactive health and wellness expo sponsored by the Chamber, will be held the first week in October. HealthSmart will feature many booths with healthcare screenings, blood pressure checks, diabetes and glaucoma screenings, flu shots, etc. The event is highlighted with a luncheon which will feature "The Biggest Losers," Philip and Amy Parham, who have been featured on the Today Show, Oprah and The Doctors. Healthy restaurants in Gainesville and Hall County will serve their healthy foods.

The Chamber sponsored a Healthcare Reform Meeting for the community. Over 600 citizens turned out to hear Congressmen Nathan Deal and Congressman Phil Gingrey talk about the proposed healthcare reform bill and answer questions.

The Chamber hosted the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Power Lunch in September. Mike Garrett, Chairman and George Israel, President & CEO of the Georgia Chamber, addressed issues that will forthcoming in January in the State Legislature. Mike Garrett (President of Georgia Power), also Governor Perdue's appointment as the "Water Quarterback," talked about the strategy that Georgia has developed to address the water issues for our state. There were 150 attendees from Hall County, Gwinnett, Dawson, Lumpkin and Habersham.

■ CEO PROFILE

Catherine Glover

President/CEO
Albany Area Chamber

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

As I'm trying to squelch my laughter...I wanted to be a bilingual secretary, as I excelled with my French language classes (which I took from grades 3 – 10 at schools in Lexington, Massachusetts), and by the sixth grade, I could type about 75 words per minute with three errors or less!!! My parents, however, thought for sure I'd go in to the theatre as an actress – Alas!

■ G P E E

Make a Difference In a Student's Future!

When many of us reflect on our days as students, we recall the high school diploma as delivering on the value of education. In most cases, it provided the bridge to a steady job and a reasonably good quality of life. As chamber leaders know, high school is no longer enough.

It is essential that business leaders join with other education stakeholders in sending a loud, emphatic message to students, parents, and community members that having a college education not only pays off big for the individual in terms of landing a good job, increasing income, and avoiding poverty, but also has economic and social benefits. Communities get a payoff with a more talented workforce, higher tax revenues, and lower social service and criminal justice spending.

The Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education invites local chambers of commerce with their education committees and other business members to join with a coalition of state agencies and organizations in sending the vital message that education beyond high school matters. October has been designated as College Access Month and **November 9-13** will mark the second annual **Georgia Apply to College Week**. More than 40 high schools are participating, many in your communities. Your help is needed in motivating and inspiring young people to consider and pursue higher education, especially students who may have never considered reaching beyond high school.

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■ CHAMBER UPDATES

Greater Macon Chamber

Chip Cherry, CCE, President

The Young Professionals Network hosted a Lunch and Learn with guest speaker Dr. Bill Cummings, (Dr. C). A professional leadership consultant, Dr. C administered personality tests to the young professionals. Using the results, he gave tips and advice on the best way to balance work life and personal life.

The 2009 Golf Classic was held in September at Canongate at Healy Point Country Club. As one of the main fundraisers for the Chamber, the event was a success with more than 120 golfers participating and numerous sponsors.

The Chamber held a Speed Networking Breakfast, a change from their bi-monthly Speed Networking Lunch, to help accommodate Chamber members who are unable to use their lunch hour for events. This was a huge success, and they heard lots of positive feedback from the attendees.

Greene County Chamber

Becky Cronic, President

The Chamber hosted A Tasteful Event in downtown Greensboro in September. Guests enjoyed delicious entrée samples from various restaurants from throughout the Greene County and Lake Oconee area. The Chamber also hosted a Silent Auction in conjunction with the event. Over 200 people attended the annual fundraising event.

Gwinnett Chamber

Jim Maran, President & CEO

The Chamber is pleased to announce the official launch of its social media 2.0 campaign designed to extend the Chamber's reach, value and ability. Through the Chamber's involvement with Facebook Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and the Chamber's blog, Chamber members will experience enhanced capabilities for networking, staying informed on Chamber activities, and growing their businesses.



Columbus – The Chamber and Valley Partnership recently received the GEDA Deal of the Year Award in the Regional Category.

Henry County Chamber

Kay Pippin, President

Over 50 elected, appointed and business leaders participated in the 2nd Annual Henry County Intergovernmental Retreat hosted by the Chamber at the James Madison Inn & Conference Center in Madison, Georgia, in late August. Leaders met to discuss Henry County's economic development strengths and challenges. Participants received their first look at *Recommendations for a Henry County Economic Development Strategy*, a report of the One Henry: Economic Strategy Task Force. The Task Force, an outgrowth of the 2008 Intergovernmental Retreat, involved over 100 Henry County government, civic and business leaders working together over the last 9 months to produce the 40 pages of recommendations for Henry County's future economic well being.

Following a successful class retreat in August, the Leadership Henry Class of 2010 participated in "Local Government Day" in September. Class members had the opportunity to hear from speakers including the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and Tax Commissioner. Class members toured the new Judicial Center and were provided insight into the legal system and the duties of the different courts.

Henry County rolled out the red carpet for well over 100,000 fans attending the first NASCAR night race during Labor Day Weekend at the Atlanta Motor Speedway. Fans were welcomed with signage, special offers by local businesses and service personnel wearing "Henry County Welcomes Race Fans" tee shirts. The tee shirts were sold by the Chamber and proved to be so popular, the demand far exceeded the supply.

In September, Business After Hours took a different twist on its traditional approach. Sponsored by the City of McDonough and Connecting Henry, Chamber members enjoyed the fall weather as they networked on the town square in McDonough and sampled great foods prepared by six of the downtown McDonough restaurants. Downtown merchants also extended their hours for the evening allowing participants an opportunity to browse through their stores.

LaGrange-Troup County Chamber

Page Estes, President

Leadership Troup graduated its 18th class, and the 2010 class has already begun its sessions.

Pickens County Chamber

Denise Duncan, President

A seminar titled "Surviving and Thriving in Hard Times" is being offered by the Chamber and Chattahoochee Technical College in conjunction with the E-Friendly Program on October 27.

■ GPEE

There are three things you can do immediately:

1 – Learn more about Apply to College Week and sign up as a volunteer for a day by visiting www.usg.edu/apply-to-college/. Click on “Get Involved” to volunteer.

2 – Sponsor a *Friday Night College Lights* event at one of your upcoming football or basketball games. Email Diane Hopkins at dhopkins@gpee.org to receive the How To guide on using a home game to share the “college education matters” message.

3 – Volunteer or recruit a business leader for a radio interview with your local station to share the “college education matters” message with listeners. Email Diane Hopkins at dhopkins@gpee.org for talking points.

The effort is minimal, but the return is big. Help elevate the aims and outcomes for Georgia’s students, our communities, and our 21st century economy.

■ CHAMBER UPDATES

Pickens County Chamber (cont.)

Surviving and Thriving has valuable information to offer every small business or entrepreneur thinking of starting a business. The seminar will be held at Chattahoochee Technical College, and the admission price will include a box lunch. Attendees will also have an opportunity to visit vendor tables offering a variety of products and services that will benefit small businesses.

Sandy Springs/Perimeter Chamber

Sheri Wilburn, President

The Chamber has partnered with Liazon to offer their members an innovative new benefits program. Liazon is a consumer-centric employee benefits company. The Chamber has begun making Liazon’s Bright Choices™ benefits program available to its members, in time for their benefits open enrollment period. Liazon’s Bright Choices program provides chamber members with a *Fortune* 500 level array of benefit choices and options from leading carriers that small companies are unable to access individually.

Sylvester-Worth County Chamber

Hollie Jones, President

The 46th Annual Georgia Peanut Festival will be held at Jeffords Park in downtown Sylvester on October 17. The Annual Georgia Peanut Festival is the record holder for making the world’s largest peanut butter sandwich, 12 foot wide by 12 foot long in 1987. The festivities will kick off with the opening of the Peter Pan Peanut Butter Arts and Crafts Show, food vendors, live entertainment, peanut/peanut butter cooking contest, 24 foot Rock wall, bouncy house, trackless train, reverse bungee jump, 22 foot screamer slide, face painting, and much more. The famous Peter Pan Peanut Butter Parade will also take place that

Sylvester-Worth Chamber (cont.)

morning with bands, clowns, cars, local celebrities, politicians, beauty queens, and floats that will line the streets of downtown Sylvester.

The Pets-n-Pals Junior Parade for the kids will take place October 10 in downtown Sylvester. This event is sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority and the Best Friends Humane Society. There will be a costume and best theme contest. Winners will ride on a float in the Peter Pan Peanut Butter Parade (Oct. 17).

Also on October 10, the Annual Georgia Peanut Festival Beauty Pageant will be held at the Worth County High School Gymnasium for ages 1-21. Over 100 girls entered last year, and the Queen this year will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for first place.

Toccoa-Stephens County Chamber

Wendi Bailey, President

In 1942 with the world at war, the United States government acquired a mountain and the surrounding land in Toccoa, Georgia as a training facility for a new type of soldier, the paratrooper. Young men from across the nation who had little in common except a shared future, descended on the small north Georgia town to train to defend their country. To honor the men of Camp Toccoa and as a show of appreciation for the sacrifices they made, the 7th Annual Currahee Military Weekend and Reunion is planned for the weekend of October 2-4. The event is hosted by the Chamber, Stephens County Historical Society and Toccoa Mainstreet Program. Camp Toccoa reshaped the town, and the soldiers training there ultimately became the inspiration for the HBO mini-series *The Band of Brothers*, movies *Saving Private Ryan* and *The Dirty Dozen*, as well as the History Channel’s *Los Banos Prison Raid*.

■ NOVEMBER 2009 Newsletter

The deadline for the
NOVEMBER
GACCE newsletter will be
Friday, October 23, 2009.
Please send updates to
Tiffany Fulmer at
tfulmer@gacce.org.



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Pam Carnes, GCCE, Cherokee County
Brad Day, Tifton-Tift County
Jim Finch, DCA
Catherine Glover, Albany Area
George Israel, III, Georgia Chamber
Daniel Jackson, Carroll County
Hollie Jones, Sylvester-Worth County
Candace LaForge, GCCE, Newnan-Coweta
Mary Ellen McClanahan, GDEcD

Chip Cherry, CCE, Greater Macon
Monica Simmons, GCCE, Cordele-Crisp
Teri Wommack, GCCE, Walton County
Myrna Ballard, Valdosta-Lowndes County
Kali Boatright, Douglas County

James McCoy, Cumming-Forsyth County
Beth Morrison, Dalton-Whitfield County (Memb. Council)
Mike Pennington, GEDA
Jimmy Phillips, Gordon County
Ashley Roberts, Burke County
Bill Rogers, Jr., Swainsboro-Emanuel County
Dinah Rowe, GCCE, Chatsworth-Murray County
Kenny Smiley, GCCE, Liberty County
Nancy Arnold Wood, Monticello-Jasper County
Tiffany Fulmer, GACCE Administrator