

**July 9 – 12  
2024**

*Executive Leadership  
Conference  
St. Simons Island, GA*



## **CONFERENCE SPEAKERS**

### **2024 GACCE Executive Leadership Conference**

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**Melissa Spangler**  
KEPA Consulting  
[melissa@kepaconsulting.com](mailto:melissa@kepaconsulting.com)

Melissa Spangler is a business professional with over 20 years of experience and is passionate about helping people grow personally and professionally and helping companies grow effectively and efficiently. She is also passionate about building high performing teams and bringing structure to companies by building sustainable systems and processes. Working at the Knoxville Chamber for 16 years, Melissa achieved many successes working with and through others: 5-Star Accreditation from the US Chamber; 2011 Chamber of the Year; record member retention rates; and writing a strategic plan and executing on it. She now works for Clear Leader Group (CLG) as the VP of Client Success and helps clients achieve their business goals by being a fit-to-role expert, inspiring employees, growing leaders, and other consulting. In January 2021, Melissa earned her Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) – Senior Certified Professional certification and is a Certified GiANT Guide. She recently launched KEPA Consulting to pursue her dream of coaching business professionals and teams while also resuming her role with CLG.



**Scott Robertson**  
GrowthZone  
[scott.robertson@growthzone.com](mailto:scott.robertson@growthzone.com)

Scott Robertson has been serving associations for over 25 years. Scott's passion and focus are providing customers with the tools to grow and retain membership, generate revenue, engage, communicate with members and prospects, and streamline their day-to-day operations. Scott has served as an Ambassador for his local chamber of commerce and graduated from the US Chamber Winter Institute program with his IOM in 2022. Scott has presented the 2024 Association and the 2024 Chamber Survey Results at various industry events. He's a natural at engaging audiences.

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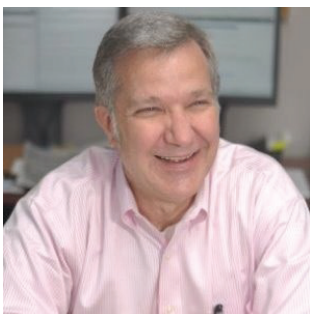


**Alysia Cook**

Opportunity Strategies

[alysia@opportunitystrategies.com](mailto:alysia@opportunitystrategies.com)

Alysia is Principal of Opportunity Strategies LLC, a professional facilitation, customized training, and strategic planning firm in Austin, TX. Her specific skills include performing organization operations audits, professional facilitation, the design and delivery of chamber of commerce and economic development strategic plans, and board member development. She has been a professional facilitator and trainer for 29 years, serving many communities across the U.S. and Caribbean and training thousands of economic development & chamber professionals. Alysia is a member of the faculty at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organization Management and an instructor at Community Development Institute. A native of Shreveport, LA, Alysia graduated from Louisiana State University in Shreveport, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing. She is a 1995 graduate of the Basic Economic Development Course at Texas A&M University, a 1997 graduate of the Economic Development Institute (EDI) at the University of Oklahoma, a 2002 graduate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organization Management (IOM/Chamber Institute,) and a 2009 graduate of Community Development Institute (CDI).



**James "Jim" M. McCarten**

Lindsey & Lacey P.C.

[jim@llptc.com](mailto:jim@llptc.com)

James M. McCarten is the firm's lead attorney for tax planning, complex trust and estate planning and business succession planning. Jim works with a broad spectrum of clients, from start-up and mid-market family businesses and their owners (especially with sales of or family succession for the business) to publicly traded entities, to corporate executives, and finally, retirees. Jim began his professional tax career in the '70s in public accounting. Following law school, he litigated tax cases for IRS as a member of the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice before broadening his tax practice to cater to the needs of small and family businesses. Along with his wife, Diane, Jim is active with numerous disability advocacy and family support organizations in both Tennessee and Georgia.

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**Ilke Lander**

The Lander Company  
info@landercompany.com

A Brazilian born, Belgian national, immigrant to the United States, Ilke Lander had an international upbringing. She started as a classically trained ballerina before shifting into public service in law enforcement and then into entrepreneurship. She has built businesses in law enforcement training, martial arts, property management, hotel/resort hospitality, Spa wellness, restaurant & wine industries. Her expertise in leading teams, overcoming obstacles and handling challenges, makes her acutely capable of developing strategies to position herself for success. Ilke is passionate about talking & coaching leaders on how they can fortify their futures to dominate for modern-day battles.