



2026 GACCE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

GACCE INFO

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

GACCE Leadership

Our GACCE 2026-2027 Executive Committee Officers



CHAIR
David Bradley, GCCE
Athens Area Chamber



1st VICE CHAIR / SECRETARY
Pam Powers-Smith, GCCE
Rome Floyd Chamber



IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR
Christie Moore, GCCE
Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber



CHAIR-ELECT
Sara Ray, GCCE
Douglas County Chamber



2nd VICE CHAIR / TREASURER
Madison Ruttinger
Thomaston-Upson County Chamber



GACCE Executive Director
Tiffany Fulmer Ott

Our GACCE 2026-2027 Board of Directors – by Region

Region 1

Stacy Hamby, Paulding

Region 2

Steve Rowe, Blairsville-Union County

Region 3

Joe Henning, CCE, GCCE, Henry County

Region 4

Rhynne Owenby, GCCE, Carroll County

Region 5

Debbie Harper, GCCE, Newton

Region 6

Maggie Schuyler, Perry Area

Region 7

Jeffrey Fowler, Warren County

Region 8

Rhonda Lamb, Dooly County

Region 9

Patty Barnard Busby, Greater Tattnall

Region 10

Caitlyn Hatcher, Colquitt-Miller County

Region 11

Melissa Dark, GCCE, Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County

Region 12

Katarina Hoyt, Darien-McIntosh County

Permanent Appointment

Georgia Chamber – Chris Clark, CCE / Morgan Law, GCCE

Ex-Officio Appointments

GDEcD – Allen Fox

GEDA – Grant Cagle

One-Year Chair Appointments

Susan Kraut, GCCE, Effingham County

Leonardo McClarty, CCE, Fayette

Jessica Walden, Greater Macon



2026 GACCE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

GACCE INFO

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

GACCE Mission & Plan of Action

Mission

The mission of GACCE is to engage, educate, and empower chamber professionals.

GACCE History

The association began in 1916, was officially incorporated in July 1986, and celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 2016.

GACCE has a long and distinguished history of serving chamber professionals in the state of Georgia. The organization exists to advocate the role of the local chamber of commerce in economic and community development and to provide GACCE members with exceptional services in the areas of professional development, information, and networking opportunities.

The membership of GACCE consists of Chamber of Commerce executives and staff, as well as those members of business and community organizations who are directly interested in or allied with Chamber of Commerce work in Georgia.

ENGAGE	EDUCATE	EMPOWER
Communications	Conferences	Awards & Certifications
Virtual Meetings	Executive & Staff Support	Scholarships
Regional Meetings	Resource Library	Mentor Program



2026 GACCE
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

GACCE INFO

GEORGIA CERTIFIED CHAMBER PROGRAM as of June 2026



One of the most prestigious programs of GACCE is the **Georgia Certified Chamber** program.
The program recognizes chambers that have met standards of excellence.
We currently have 39 Georgia Certified Chambers:

Albany Area Chamber
Augusta Metro Chamber
Barrow County Chamber
Blairsville-Union County Chamber
Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber
Carroll County Chamber
Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber
Catoosa County Chamber
Cherokee County Chamber
Columbia County Chamber
Conyers-Rockdale Chamber
Dawson County Chamber
Douglas County Chamber

Douglas-Coffee County Chamber
Dublin-Laurens County Chamber
Eatonton-Putnam Chamber
Effingham County Chamber
Fannin County Chamber
Fayette Chamber
Forsyth-Monroe County Chamber
Greater Dalton Chamber
Greater Macon Chamber
Greater North Fulton Chamber
Griffin-Spalding Chamber
Gwinnett Chamber
Habersham County Chamber

Jackson County Area Chamber
LaGrange-Troup County Chamber
Milledgeville-Baldwin County Chamber
Moultrie-Colquitt County Chamber
Newnan-Coweta Chamber
Newton Chamber
Robins Regional Chamber
Thomaston-Upson County Chamber
Thomasville-Thomas County Chamber
Thomson-McDuffie County Chamber
Toccoa-Stephens County Chamber
Walker County Chamber
White County Chamber



2026 GACCE
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

GACCE INFO

U.S. CHAMBER ACCREDITATION

as of June 2026



Accreditation with the United States Chamber of Commerce defines excellence in chamber planning and recognizes chambers for outstanding contributions toward positive change in their communities.

The following Chambers in Georgia are currently accredited
(per the U.S. Chamber website June 2026):

Five-Star Chambers ★★★★★

Albany Area Chamber
Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber
Cobb Chamber
Columbia County Chamber
Greater North Fulton Chamber
Gwinnett Chamber
Habersham County Chamber
Newnan-Coweta Chamber
Toccoa-Stephens County Chamber
White County Chamber

Four-Star Chambers ★★★★★

Fayette Chamber
Newton Chamber
Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber

Three-Star Chamber ★★★

Catoosa County Chamber



2026 GACCE
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

GACCE INFO

GEORGIA CERTIFIED CHAMBER EXECUTIVES (GCCE) as of July 2026



The Georgia Certified Chamber Executive (GCCE) designation exemplifies excellence and professionalism of Georgia's Chamber Executives. We salute these Chamber Executives for their outstanding service to the Chamber profession in the State of Georgia:

Kali Boatright, Greater North Fulton Chamber
Candace Boothby, Newnan-Coweta Chamber
David Bradley, Athens Area Chamber
April Bragg, Robins Regional Chamber
Pam Carnes, Cherokee County Chamber
Melody Cowart, Tifton-Tift County Chamber
Angie Cox, Augusta Metro Chamber
Melissa Dark, Fitzgerald-Ben Hill Chamber
Aura Lee Durham, Robins Regional Chamber
Crystal Fairless, Fannin County Chamber
Sabrina Griffin, Columbia County Chamber
Debbie Harper, Newton Chamber
Joseph Henning, Henry County Chamber
Amy Jackson, Catoosa County Chamber
Tommy Jennings, Barrow County Chamber

Cindy Jones, Griffin-Spalding Chamber
Susan Kraut, Effingham County Chamber
Morgan Law, Georgia Chamber
Christie Moore, Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber
Rhyne Owenby, Carroll County Chamber
Leah Poole, Liberty County Chamber
Pam Powers-Smith, Rome Floyd Chamber
Sara Ray, Douglas County Chamber
Carmenlita Scott, ATL Airport Chamber
Monica Simmons, Cordele-Crisp Chamber
Teri Smiley, Walton County Chamber
Ralph Staffins, III, Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber
Heath Taylor, Columbia County Chamber
Beth Truelove, White County Chamber
Cindy Williams, Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber



2026 GACCE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

GACCE INFO

GACCE LEGACY AWARD

as of July 2025

The highest award presented by GACCE, the recipient of the Legacy Award is one who exemplifies the ideals of our profession.

- 2025** – Ralph Staffins, III, *GCCE*, Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber
- 2024** – Chris Clark, *CCE*, Georgia Chamber
- 2023** – Sue Parr, *GCCE*, Augusta Metro Chamber
- 2022** – Tommy Jennings, *GCCE*, Barrow County Chamber
- 2021** – Candace Boothby, *GCCE*, Newnan-Coweta Chamber
- 2020** – Daniel Jackson, Carroll County Chamber
- 2019** – Monica Simmons, *GCCE*, Cordele-Crisp Chamber
- 2018** – Kit Dunlap, Greater Hall Chamber
- 2017** – Kali Boatright, *GCCE*, Greater North Fulton Chamber
- 2016** – Roddie Anne Blackwell, *GCCE*, Eatonton-Putnam Chamber
- 2015** – Teri Smiley, *GCCE*, Walton County Chamber
- 2014** – Myrna Ballard, Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber
- 2013** – Bill Mitchell, *GCCE*, Toombs-Montgomery Chamber
- 2012** – Fred Boscarino, *GCCE*, Conyers-Rockdale Chamber
- 2011** – Chip Cherry, *CCE*, Greater Macon Chamber
- 2010** – Pam Carnes, *GCCE*, Cherokee County Chamber
- 2008** – Bonnie Pfrogner, *GCCE*, Griffin-Spalding Chamber
- 2007** – Cile Warr, *GCCE*, Bainbridge-Decatur County Chamber
- 2006** – David Garriga, Americus-Sumter County Chamber
- 2005** – Betsy Hueber, *GCCE*, Thomaston-Upson County Chamber
- 2003** – Sue Spivey, *GCCE*, Chattooga County Chamber
- 2002** – Don Sims, Thomasville-Thomas County Chamber
- 2001** – Albert M. Hodge, Jr., Greater Rome Chamber
- 2000** – Woody Woodside, Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber
- 1999** – Peggy Chapman, *GCCE*, Statesboro-Bulloch County Chamber
- 1998** – Mike Gaymon, *GCCE*, Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber
- 1997** – Willie Paulk, *GCCE*, Dublin-Laurens County Chamber
- 1996** – Jerry Bartels, *CCE*, Metro Atlanta Chamber
- 1995** – Nancy Kinsey, Walton County Chamber
- 1995** – Ken O'Neill, *GCCE*, Carroll County Chamber
- 1994** – Dick James, Newton County Chamber
- 1994** – Phil Overton, Gordon County Chamber
- 1993** – Tim Chason, Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber



**2026 GACCE
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

GACCE INFO

GACCE EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD as of November 2025

The GACCE Board of Directors created a new award in 2024 to recognize a Chamber Executive in the state who is celebrating a major accomplishment in leading and/or innovatively building their chamber in the last 12 months. We were proud to recognize the following Chamber Executives in 2024 and 2025:

2025 GACCE Executive of the Year



Joseph Henning, CCE
President & CEO
Henry County Chamber of Commerce

2024 GACCE Executive of the Year



Nick Masino
President & CEO
Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce



2026 GACCE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

GACCE INFO

GACCE PAST CHAIRS

as of July 2026

We'd like to thank the following Chamber Executives for their leadership and commitment:

2025 – 2026.....	Christie Moore, <i>GCCE</i> , Valdosta-Lowndes County
2024 – 2025.....	Heath Taylor, <i>GCCE</i> , Columbia County
2023 – 2024.....	April Bragg, <i>GCCE</i> , Robins Regional
2022 – 2023.....	Cindy Williams, <i>GCCE</i> , Cartersville-Bartow County
2020 – 2022.....	Ralph Staffins III, <i>GCCE</i> , Brunswick-Golden Isles
2019 – 2020.....	Sue Parr, <i>GCCE</i> , Augusta Metro
2018 – 2019.....	Brian Anderson, <i>GCCE</i> , Greater Columbus
2017 – 2018.....	Tommy Jennings, <i>GCCE</i> , Barrow County
2016 – 2017.....	Daniel Jackson, <i>GCCE</i> , Carroll County
2015 – 2016.....	Yulonda Darden Beauford, <i>GCCE</i> , Clayton County
2014 – 2015.....	Dinah Rowe, <i>GCCE</i> , Chatsworth-Murray County
2013 – 2014.....	Candace Boothby, <i>CCE</i> , <i>GCCE</i> , Newnan-Coweta
2012 – 2013.....	Kali Boatright, <i>GCCE</i> , Douglas County
2011 – 2012.....	Myrna Ballard, Valdosta-Lowndes County
2010 – 2011.....	Teri Smiley, <i>GCCE</i> , Walton County
2009 – 2010.....	Chip Cherry, <i>CCE</i> , Greater Macon
2008 – 2009.....	Monica Simmons, <i>GCCE</i> , Cordele-Crisp
2007 – 2008.....	Bill Mitchell, <i>GCCE</i> , Toombs-Montgomery
2006 – 2007.....	George Woodward, <i>GCCE</i> , Dalton-Whitfield
2005 – 2006.....	Pam Carnes, <i>GCCE</i> , Cherokee County
2004 – 2005.....	Tim Martin, <i>CCE</i> , Albany Area
2003 – 2004.....	Bill Cooper, Cobb
2002 – 2003.....	Betsy Hueber, <i>GCCE</i> , Thomaston-Upson County
2001 – 2002.....	Greg Wright, Newnan-Coweta
2000 – 2001.....	Saralyn Stafford, Douglas-Coffee County



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EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

GACCE INFO

GACCE STAFF SERVICE AWARDS

as of March 2026

GACCE was proud to recognize the following chamber staff members who are achieving milestone anniversaries this year in the chamber industry:

40 Year Service Award

Eric Ervin – Georgia Chamber

25 Year Service Award

Vicki Keibler– Barrow County Chamber

20 Year Service Award

Jennifer Bronner – Greater Macon Chamber

Gini Mizelle – Cherokee County Chamber

15 Year Service Awards

Megan Lesko – Gwinnett Chamber

Donna McBee – Gwinnett Chamber

Joy Salter – Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber



**2026 GACCE
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

GACCE INFO

GACCE STAFF SERVICE AWARDS (*continued*)

as of March 2026

GACCE was proud to recognize the following chamber staff members who are achieving milestone anniversaries this year in the chamber industry:

10 Year Service Awards

Meredith Bailey – Gwinnett Chamber
Beth Frits – Columbia County Chamber
Cereto Bean – Fayette Chamber
Nichol Linn – Gordon Chamber
Lisa Sherman – Gwinnett Chamber
Amber West – Rome Floyd Chamber

5 Year Service Awards

Natasha Bowles-Hamer – ATL Airport Chamber
Marissa Chastain – Athens Area Chamber
Anna French – Georgia Chamber
Jessica Grigsby – Dawson County Chamber
Megan Jones – Gwinnett Chamber
April Perry – Gwinnett Chamber
Joshua Taffin – Gilmer Chamber
Lexi Walker – Georgia Chamber
Jennifer Wallace – Georgia Chamber
Tyeme Woods – Gwinnett Chamber



2026 GACCE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

GACCE INFO

CHARTING THE COURSE

Exemplary Leadership

ACCE Chamber of the Year

The nation's only award that recognizes the dual role chambers of commerce have leading businesses and communities. The award recognizes excellence in operations, member services and community leadership.

Since 2007, ACCE has annually recognized chambers of commerce in various size categories for their work leading businesses and communities with the prestigious Chamber of the Year award. The award recognizes excellence in operations, member services and community leadership.

The Chamber of the Year award involves a multi-stage process, which includes Dynamic Chamber Benchmarking, application and interview. During the first two stages, chambers compete against the numbers. As finalists, they compete against other chambers within their category. ACCE uses a five-factor equation based on the numbers submitted in Dynamic Chamber Benchmarking to determine an applicant's competition category (1–4). This process ensures that all applicants will be competing against chambers of commerce of similar size and capacity.

The benefits of winning Chamber of the Year are significant and going through the process is a great learning experience. Georgia is currently represented by four previous winners: the **Georgia Chamber**, the **Gwinnett Chamber**, the **Henry County Chamber**, and the **Newnan-Coweta Chamber**.



CCE: Aspire to be a National Certified Chamber Executive

Earn the internationally-recognized certification for chamber professionals! The Certified Chamber Executive (CCE) program is designed to assess the applicant's knowledge of the four core chamber management areas - Management, Planning and Development, Membership and Communications, and Operations. CCEs exemplify commitment to the chamber of commerce profession; dedication to managerial and leadership excellence; and leadership in state, regional, and national chamber professional associations.

Join more than 500 chamber executives who have earned the designation of Certified Chamber Executive. **Current CCEs in Georgia:**



Candace Boothby, CCE
Newnan-Coweta
Chamber



Chris Clark, CCE
Georgia Chamber



Joseph Henning, CCE
Henry County Chamber



Leonardo McClarty, CCE
Fayette Chamber



2026 GACCE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

GACCE INFO

CHARTING THE COURSE

Industry Associations and Professional Certifications

Chamber executives enjoy many paths to success, from National recognition to professional distinction. As a leader in business and in your community, learn more about how to effectively demonstrate your commitment to industry standards of excellence.

Industry Associations

Learn more about the two statewide associations and the two national associations that serve as the cornerstone of support for all successful chambers of commerce.

Professional Development

Advocacy Support

State



National



U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Professional Certifications

Six professional and organizational certifications exist to recognize the outstanding achievements of world class chambers and world class chamber executives who strive daily to lead communities and lead businesses with the highest standards of excellence and professionalism.

GACCE
www.gacce.org

Georgia Certified Chamber Designation



Georgia Certified Chamber Executive (GCCE) Designation



Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE)
www.acce.org

National Chamber of the Year Designation



National Certified Chamber Executive (CCE) Designation



U.S. Chamber of Commerce
www.uschamber.com

National Accreditation



Institute for Organization Management (IOM) Designation





2026 GACCE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

GACCE INFO

CHARTING THE COURSE

National Resources

ACCE Horizon 2035: A Legacy of Leadership

The first Chamber of Commerce was established in 1599 in Marseille, France to promote regional economic interests. This model spread to America with New York's statewide chamber in 1768 and Charleston's local chamber in 1773.

Despite centuries of difference, these early chambers share much of the same core mission as those we lead today: advocating for business interests, improving infrastructure, and shaping economic policy.

The role of chambers has never been more crucial. Trust in businesses and chambers is strong. A 2024 Harris Poll survey, conducted on behalf of ACCE, found that 81% of U.S. adults agree that their local chamber of commerce is a trusted resource and partner for businesses. Nine in 10 feel that their local chamber has an impact on growing the local economy (90%) and addressing challenges within their community (88%). We have tremendous momentum to bring even more bold leadership and lasting impact to our communities.

In the next decade, chambers will shape – and be shaped by – three spheres of influence:

- **Linchpin influences** - fundamental to chambers' role as trusted community leaders
 - Catalytic Leadership
 - Belonging and Gathering
- **Timeless influences** that every generation of chamber leader faces
 - Political and Social Fragmentation
 - Changing Business Models
 - Changing Expectations of Chambers
 - Inclusive Economic Growth
 - Digital Transformation and Technological Innovation
- **Timely influences** - highly relevant now, and likely critical in the future
 - Chambers as Unifiers
 - Leadership Churn
 - Talent Development at the Speed of Business
 - Global Impacts

