

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Leading Businesses.
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Drugs Don't Work in Business

October 17-23 is National *Drug-Free Work Week*, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, which highlights the importance of being drug-free to workplace safety and encourages workers with alcohol and drug problems to seek help. More than 230 businesses in Valdosta-Lowndes County and 44 businesses in neighboring counties promote a drug-free workplace year-round by participating in the DRUGS DON'T WORK (DDW) in South GA program.

"The Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber is proud to be a part of this year's National *Drug-Free Work Week*," said President Myrna Ballard. "We want to spread the message that 'working drug free works,' and to highlight the benefits that the Chamber's DDW program brings to employers, workers and communities."

CJB Industries has participated in the program for more than seven years, saving approximately \$20,000. "More highly qualified workers are attracted to a drug-free workplace. Turnover decreases, and safety and quality increase," said Corporate Secretary Jeana Beeland, when noting the benefits of the program.

DDW works with businesses of all sizes, implementing a comprehensive drug free workplace program that is effective, efficient and easy to implement. Not only does the program provide businesses with substance abuse policy development, supervisor training, employee education, assistance programs and drug testing, it provides a 7.5 percent premium discount on participants' Workers Compensation insurance.

"The program has proven to be an asset, not only in the community, but also to Langdale Place allowing us to consistently increase awareness concerning the importance of a drug free workplace," states Ansley Panizzi, Assistant Director of Langdale Place, a 10 year member of the program. "While the savings on Workers Compensation premiums are substantial, the reduction of medical claims and the decrease of lost time from work due to on the job accidents are highly beneficial to our company. We implement the program as a tool to make our employees aware that we view their health and safety as one of our top priorities."

DDW is a regional partnership program among the Valdosta-Lowndes County, Adel-Cook County, Ashburn-Turner County, Douglas-Coffee County, Lakeland Lanier County, Moultrie-Colquitt County, Quitman-Brooks County and Worth County-Sylvester Chambers of Commerce.

Most businesses already comply with some or all of the program's requirements and simply need to become a DDW member to become an official drug-free workplace and start taking advantage of the Chamber's DDW services and savings. There is no better time to join the program than now during National *Drug-Free Work Week*. Any interested business should contact Keyara Hamilton at the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber at 229-247-8100.