

Public Affairs Division Update



**James McGahee
(Vice Chairman)**

Military Affairs Update



**MILITARY AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE**



Brian Geary, Chairman

2010 Overview

Mission Statement:

To continue a long-standing tradition in our community of cultivating and enhancing a positive relationship between the business community and local military personnel.

Sub-Committees:

- 1. Red Carpet
- 2. Right Start
- 3. Airman Appreciation Day
- 4. Airman of the Quarter
- 5. Sports Day Event
- 6. Anniversary Party Committee

Goals

- Provide a link between military and the Valdosta-Lowndes County business community through the interaction of military personnel and the business community.
- Educate all Moody newcomers about Valdosta-Lowndes County and familiarize them with the business community.
- Recognize Moody's annual contribution of over \$409 million to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Community.
- Encourage communication between the military and the Chamber about their concerns that may be related to the Valdosta-Lowndes County business community.

Right Start Program

- We attended **22** Right Start Presentations and Information Fairs so far this year. These are scheduled every other Tuesday at Moody AFB. Being the only Air Force Base in the world to allow the Chamber to help welcome the new incoming Airmen, we are able to provide a presentation highlighting the Valdosta area, and what the community has to offer to enhance the Quality of Life at Moody.
- During the information fair, we provide answers to any questions the new folks have, and hand out the welcome packets the Chamber members pay to be a part of.
- What a win-win situation for Moody and the Community.

Red Carpet Parties

- We have hosted four Red Carpet Parties at Ocean Pond welcoming the New Senior Leadership to the base. In addition, we presented going away gifts to departing Senior Commanders. It is always a fun time for all; all the guests are treated to a traditional southern dinner, and fellowship.
- We have been able to secure sponsors for all four of the parties this year, one being our 45th Anniversary Party.

Red Carpet Events @ Ocean Pond



To view more photos visit our photo gallery on the Chamber's Web Site
www.valdostachamber.com or click link <http://www.valdostachamber.com/photo-gallery.htm>

For more information contact Karil Brockington at 247-8100 or email:
kbrockington@valdostachamber.com

Thank you to Our 2010 Red Carpet Sponsors:

Four Star Sponsors

ADT Security Services, Inc.

Catfish One

Eye Associates of South GA,
LLC

First State Bank/Synovus
Mortgage Corp.

Georgia Power Company

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J. Randall Hicks, P.C.
Attorney at Law

Johnson Distributing
Company

Kentucky Fried Chicken

Moody Law Firm, LLC

Quinn Construction

Pearl Executive Shuttle

Smitty's Package Store

Southeastern Federal Credit
Union

Steel's Jewelry

The Links

The LPA Group Incorporated

Valdosta Daily Times

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Conference Center &
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WAL-MART Supercenter

Wilson Eye Center

Thank you to Our 2010 Red Carpet Sponsors:

One Star Sponsors

*

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Conference Center

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Langdale Honda Kia of
Valdosta

Miller Hardware

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Services, Inc.

Prudential Financial Company

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Company

SMITH Northview Hospital

Southeastern Capital Mgmt.
Group

Tall Tree/Staten Crossing Apt.

That Others May Live
Foundation

The Herndon Company Real
Estate

The Park Avenue Bank

Valdosta Flying Service

Valdosta Sunrise Rotary Club

Valdosta-Lowndes County
Airport Authority

Valdosta-Lowndes County
Industrial Authority

2010 Red Carpet Sponsors Attendance:

2010 Red Carpet Sponsor Attendance

Date	Paid Sponsors	Sponsors Attended	Estimated number attended
February 21, 2010	29	21	125-130
April 10, 2010	44	39	190
August 14, 2010	26	14	120-125
October 9, 2010	27	11	80-90

Change of Commands

- We have had several changes in the leadership at Moody so far this year. As I always say it is sad to see the old regime leave but it helps us to meet a new group of leaders.

Airmen Appreciation Day

- The committee supported the Airmen Appreciation Day through donations. This is a great opportunity to acknowledge these young men and women who put their lives on the line everyday to help secure our freedom.

Visiting Dignitaries

- We provided gifts of South GA pecans and a couple of Red Carpet glasses to visiting Generals to Moody. We have coordinated with the base Protocol Office to keep several on hand and let us know when they have someone visit.

Quarterly/Annual Awards

- Several committee members attended the Annual Awards banquet in honor of the Airmen and Civilians at the base who have excelled in their jobs.



Moody Air Force Base Sports Day

■ Friday, October 1, 2010



Conclusion

- An impressive year. I 'm proud of all the committee members who have stepped up to help in any way possible to make this year a huge success.
- It is a pleasure to serve as the Military Affairs Chairman. I will continue to represent the Chamber through my connections with Moody and the Air Force.



2011 Proposed State Legislative Agenda

- The Government Affairs Council's State Legislative Committee has worked tirelessly on developing the 2011 Agenda, our process:
 - Review 2010 agenda
 - Meet with Local Delegation
 - Meet with GA Chamber
 - Champions review legislation
 - After many hours of meetings, research, discussion and deliberation the agenda is created
 - The language was tweaked on a few of the agenda items but only one item was added

Education

- The Chamber supports improvement strategies that link education and workforce development in a seamless manner, preparing a student for whatever future they might choose and ensuring the long-term viability of our local economy. The Chamber's goal is to build the best workforce and ensure our companies have the talent they need to stay competitive.

Sales Tax Holidays

- The Chamber supports providing a sales tax holiday at the beginning of the school year that would exempt sales tax on back-to-school items. The exemption would last at least four days. An additional sales tax holiday would exempt tax on energy efficient products.

Special Council on Tax Reform & Fairness for Georgians

- The Chamber supports the efforts of the Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians with their attempt to update and modernize the tax code.

Regarding this effort, the Chamber supports:

- changes to state tax policy that encourage economic growth, entrepreneurship and prosperity,
- creation of an independent trial court over tax disputes involving the Georgia Department of Revenue Tax Court and
- enhance the administration and collection of taxes at the state level.

Trauma Care

- The Chamber supports legislative efforts to stabilize and enhance the trauma care network. The network should be supported either by existing government funds or additional revenue sources which are dedicated, predictable, broadly imposed and government-collected. Further, the allocation of such funds should be made in accordance with the formula established by the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission.

Alternative Energy & Conservation

- The Chamber supports legislation for creating a balanced, sustainable, reliable and affordable solution to our energy needs.

The Chamber supports public policies that provide support for:

- (1) Efforts to optimize energy efficiency that will lead to long-term conservation practices;
- (2) Conversion to more environmental friendly forms of energy generation, including nuclear and clean coal technologies;
- (3) Research and development of alternative energy sources such as bio-fuels, solar power, geothermal, tidal energy and other renewable fuels produced by agronomic crops and new energy technologies; and
- (4) Energy and environmental issues that are sensitive to their short-term and long-term economic impact and that utilize proven and effective technology based on sound science.

The Chamber opposes legislation:

- (1) That is overly burdensome or imposes new regulations that would stifle systems that feed economic development and job growth and
- (2) Policies that are not based on sound science or data or lack current technology for effective implementation.

Monitor Water Council

- The Chamber supports the Suwannee – Satilla Regional Water Council's vision of managing water resources in a sustainable manner under Georgia's regulated riparian and regulated reasonable use laws that is based on sound science and consistent historical data for population and water resource use and needs assessment projections.
- Our common goal is to support the State and Region's economy, to protect public health and natural resources and to enhance the quality of life for all citizens while preserving the private property rights of Georgia's landowners and in consideration of the need to enhance resource augmentation and efficiency opportunities.
- The Chamber will monitor the progress of the Suwannee – Satilla Regional Water Council and the Regional Advisory Committees with the goal of reaching a sustainable, reliable, affordable Agricultural, Industrial and Municipal water use and water quality policy.

Clinic for the Working Uninsured

- The Chamber supports public and private funding options for safety net clinics that provide access to health care for the working uninsured to ensure that present and future needs are met.

Civil Justice Reform

- The Chamber supports monitoring and protecting the important legal and civil justice reforms that were adopted in 2005 including the requirement to prove gross negligence with regard to emergency room liability, the elimination of several joint and liability and provisions to discourage frivolous litigation. The Chamber supports caps on economic damages, opposes legislation that further weakens the reforms of 2005, and supports the reduction of the rapid growth of medical liability awards and insurance costs.

Wellness Statement

- The Chamber supports the creation of insurance products that provide incentives to reward healthy lifestyles, with appropriate consideration for cost effectiveness.

Sales Tax Exemption on Energy Used for Manufacturing

- The Chamber supports providing an exemption with respect to State (not local) sales and use tax for the cost of energy (natural or artificial gas, electricity, or any other energy) used directly in the production of manufactured goods.

Transportation

- The Chamber supports the development of a thoughtful strategy that will provide the needed funding to address transportation funding needs at both the state and local level. The funding solution strategy should provide increased, dedicated and reliable long-term funding for transportation maintenance and improvements. The Chamber will continue to actively promote top priority projects identified in the City of Valdosta's Transportation Master Plan, as well as our long-standing support for the widening of State Road 133.



2011 Proposed State Legislative Agenda

The State Legislative
Committee respectfully
requests your
consideration to adopt
the Proposed 2011 State
Legislative Agenda



2010

Government
Affairs Council
Update



Government Affairs Council (GAC)

MISSION:

Represent the business community to federal, state and local elected officials, aggressively promoting legislative issues that pertain to business development



GAC
Historical Review





SPLOST

1997

Area chambers back SPLOST



Hahira Chamber president Willie Linahan (back left), Valdosta Chamber chairman Lena Bosch and Lake Park Chamber president Howard Tessin with Stan Fillion, seated, chairman of the chamber's committee backing the September 16 SPLOST referendum.

Photo/Paul Leavy, The Valdosta Daily Times

“A Penny for Continued Progress”

1999



SPLOST \$\$\$ at Work

Get Ready for the 88th Annual Chamber Dinner Meeting!



Lindsay Thomas, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce will be speaking on January 25 at the Chamber's 88th Annual Dinner Meeting. He has been listed numerous times in Georgia Trend magazine as one of Georgia's 100 Most Powerful and Influential Georgians.



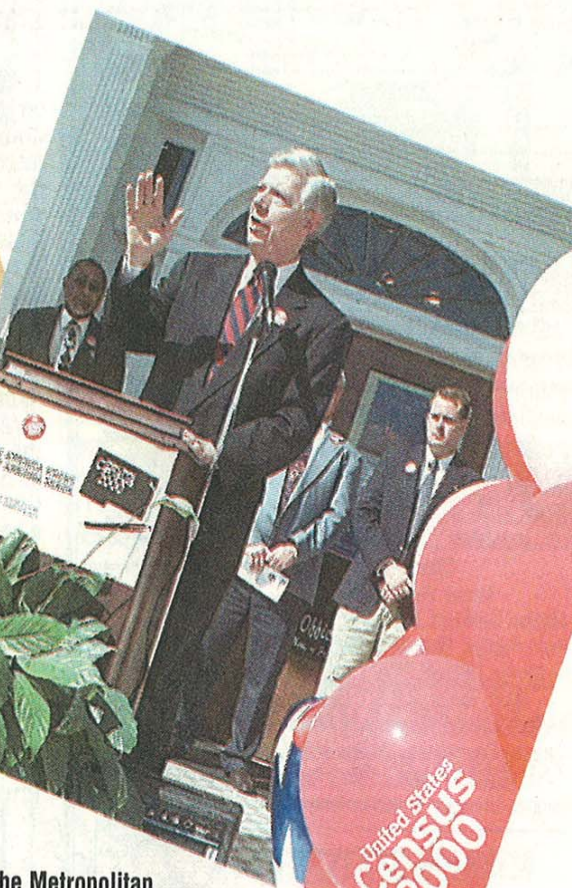
Photo courtesy of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center

Make your plans now to attend the Chamber's 88th Annual Dinner Meeting. This will be the first event held in the beautiful new Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center! Tickets available until January 18 at the Chamber of Commerce. The entire community is invited!



2000 MSA Status!

Census 2000: "It's Your Future - Don't Leave It Blank!"



John Bowling, chairman of the Metropolitan Area Committee, stresses the safety of the census. "Information collected by the census cannot be shared or sold to anyone, including other government agencies," Bowling said.

Photo courtesy of the Valdosta Daily Times

2002



Sales Tax Holiday



2002



Sales Tax Holiday

August 2004

Volume 48, No. 8

Bubba Campbell recipient of 'Champion of Business Award'

The Chamber presents several awards each year — the A.L. Girardin Award to our 'member of the year', the Small Business of the Year, the Manufacturer of the Year, DRUGS DON'T WORK Partner of the Year, and World Class Employees of the Year. But there's one Chamber award that is NOT presented each year. It's presented ONLY when a Chamber member has impacted the entire business community in an exceptional way.

In fact, the Chamber's 'Champion of Business Award' has only been presented once before. The Chamber created this special award in 2002 to acknowledge and honor the members of our local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly, State Senator **Tim Golden** and State Representatives **Ron Borders**, **Ellis Black**, and **Jay Shaw**, for the pro-business legislation they sponsored on our behalf that year.

"Once again, the Chamber Executive Committee finds that there is an individual whose actions have benefited the entire business community," said Chamber Chairman of the Board **Jud Rackley** (Brandon, Rackley & Dukes, PC) in presenting the 'Champion of Business Award' to **Bubba Campbell** at the Chamber's Mid-Year Membership meeting at JP Muldoons on July 28.. "I know that you are going to agree with the Executive Committee that this local business person truly is a 'champion' who deserves a special thanks."

**"Bubba,
Georgia says
thank you."**

The Valdosta Daily Times
'Our Opinion'



Chamber leaders and members of the Georgia General Assembly surround our 'Champion of Business,' Belk manager **Bubba Campbell**, and wife **Ann** after receiving the award at the Chamber's annual Mid-Year Membership Meeting in July. Pictured are (clockwise from top) **John Heavener** (Georgia Retail Association), **Rep. Ellis Black**, **Sen. Tim Golden** (Beacon Hill Financial, LLC)



SPLOST

2003
\$\$\$

at work



Paul Leavy/The Valdosta Daily Times

Chamber Treasurer/Chairman-Elect **Jud Rackley** (Brandon, Rackley, & Dukes PC), **Laura Cotton** (ASA), Chamber 2002 Board Chairman **Bubba Campbell** (Belk), Transportation Committee Chairman **Ronald Cowart** (Cowart Electric and Industrial Contractors, Inc.), and **Gary St. John** (ASA) chat in December immediately following St. John's announcement that ASA/Delta Connection will be initiating jet service from Valdosta Regional Airport in February.

Jet Service Has Landed!

On Dec. 18, members of the Chamber's Transportation Committee welcomed the announcement of jet service to Valdosta Regional Airport. **Gary St. John** of Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Inc. said, "Beginning January 31, ASA will begin flying the first regional jets from Valdosta to Atlanta."

The jets include two 50-passenger CRJs. ASA also will add two 66-passenger ATRs, which are a larger version of the Brasilias currently in use. The CRJs and ATRs will begin replacing the 30 passenger Brasilias starting in February.

The Chamber's Transportation Committee has persisted for more than 15 years in working with ASA to ensure jet service for the Valdosta Regional Airport. **Steve Everett** (Langdale Ford) was an instrumental part of "Project Jet," whose goal in the mid-1980s was to bring jet service to Valdosta. "I believe that

jet service from Valdosta will be the single best thing that can happen to promote airline travel out of Valdosta Regional Airport," Everett said. "The business traveler requires comfort and generally flies a very tight schedule. These planes are much bigger; the seats more comfortable and much roomier than the Brasilia's currently being used. The reduced flight time to about 55 minutes should allow for better connections in and out of Atlanta."

Ronald Cowart (Cowart Electric and Industrial Contractors), chairman of the Chamber's Transportation Committee said, "On behalf of the Chamber's Transportation Committee, I appreciate the efforts of ASA to improve air service to and from Valdosta Regional Airport. The Chamber has really pursued these improvements, and I commend ASA for making them happen."

2003



Telecommunications

Telecommunications: Can Valdosta businesses compete?



Pictured at the 4th Annual Telecommunications Forum are presenters **Ted Lawrence** (BellSouth), **Mike Adkinson** (TechLINKS Magazine), **Jorge Neves** (Sprint PCS), **Darryl Chaney** and **Paula Birth** (Mediacom), and **Randy Cox** (Park Avenue Bank).

“Can Valdosta Businesses Compete?” was the subject of the 4th Annual Telecommunications Forum held Oct. 14 at the Valdosta-Lowndes Conference Center. The event was sponsored by the Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber, the Valdosta-Lowndes Conference Center & Tourism Authority, and The Valdosta Daily Times.

Randy Cox (Park Avenue Bank) explained the purpose of the forum. “Since the community was recently named a Metropolitan area, this year’s forum was designed to determine if Valdosta-Lowndes County can compete in terms of our telecommunications services with the other Metro areas.”

This year’s keynote speaker was **Mike Adkinson**, founder and CEO of TechLINKS Magazine in Atlanta. Adkinson told the group, “Technology is not an end in itself, it is a tool to help you. It’s not how much broadband width you have, it’s what you do with it. As our national and state economies continue to change, the key to Valdosta’s future success will be to provide a place where home-grown entrepreneurs know that they can come home, build businesses, receive support, and be successful.”

For more information about the Chamber’s Technology Resources Committee contact **Yolanda Shropshire**, (229)247-8100 or yshropshire@valdostachamber.com.

“Valdosta businesses have the same ability to communicate as Fortune 500 companies with real time email access, digital imaging, and connection to corporate computer networks over faster, secure connections.”

Jorge Neves
Sprint PCS

“Telecommunication services offered by BellSouth in Valdosta-Lowndes County are in a parity with any other city in the state of Georgia, including Atlanta. The capabilities and infrastructure available in Valdosta-Lowndes County are second to no other cities in the State of Georgia.”

Ted Lawrence
BellSouth

Glitch-Unemployment Insurance Law

2005



Lt. Gov. Taylor addresses the business community

The Chamber is already making our case to elected officials about the concerns of the business community for the upcoming 2004 Legislative Session. On Oct. 2, Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor visited with Chamber members to discuss his forecast of the upcoming session. "I encourage everyone to get and stay involved in their local Chamber of Commerce," stated Taylor. "Making your voice heard loud and clear starts at the local level. If we don't



pay close attention to transportation, education and healthcare, for example, there could be an adverse impact on our business climate and the state's economy. I look forward to working on all of these issues with the business community during our next legislative session."

Chamber Manufacturers Council members urged the Lt. Gov. to work on legislation to clarify wording in the Unemployment Insurance statute that currently allows some dismissed employees who violate their employer's posted attendance policy to collect benefits, in certain situations. "We are pleased that Lt. Governor Taylor supports correcting this 'glitch' in the Unemployment Insurance law which allows payment of benefits even when a claimant violates a known, reasonable and lawful attendance rule," said Mark Wilson (Langdale Industries). "This correction will reduce Unemployment Insurance costs to businesses and will reinforce the message that good employee attendance is a major key to a successful company."

This language amendment is intended to protect employers whose employees are violating their fundamental right to expect them to be at work, not including those absences subject to FMLA protections. The Chamber currently is in the process of developing the 2004 Legislative Agenda for Business, which will include this issue as well as other top business development issues in our community. Chamber members will be given the opportunity to rank their top legislative priorities for the Chamber to pursue during the 2004 Legislative Session.

For a look at the Chamber's 2004 Legislative Agenda for Business, go to the Chamber's Web site at www.valdostachamber.com.

Lt. Governor Mark Taylor met with Chamber members regarding Unemployment Insurance reform during a Chamber reception for him at the Chamber on Oct. 2. Pictured are Mark Wilson (Langdale Industries), William Sirmans (Georgia Department of Labor), Taylor, Jeff Hanson (Park Avenue Bank), and Kris Jensen (Saff America, Inc.).

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And Surrounding Areas Since 1967

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2005



Unemployment Glitch – *clarifying attendance as a reason for dismissal*

2005 Champions of Business



Photo by Steven Heddon

Susan Dukes (Ga. Dept of Labor), Mark Wilson (Langdale Industries) and Paula Goff (Regal Marine) pose with their awards following the Mid-Year Membership Meeting. Dukes, Goff, and Wilson received the Champion of Business Award because of their work to pass legislation in the 2005 Legislative Session that clarifies attendance as a reason for dismissal.

Another keynote of the Mid-Year Membership Meeting was the presentation of the 2005 Champions of Business Award. This year, the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee presented this prestigious honor to **Susan Dukes** (Ga. Dept of Labor), **Paula Goff** (Regal Marine), and **Mark Wilson** (Langdale Industries) for their work in clarifying attendance as a reason for dismissal.

The Champion of Business Award is not an annual award. The honor is reserved only for those individuals who have gone above and beyond to make a difference for business, not just in their organization or in Lowndes County, but on the state level as well.

Past winners of the Champion of Business Award include the local Delegation: Rep. Jay Shaw, Rep. Ron Borders, Rep. Ellis Black and State Senator Tim Golden for the Sales Tax Holiday in 2002 and Bubba Campbell in 2004 for his efforts in founding the Sales Tax Holiday.

Dukes, Goff, and Wilson have been working on this issue for several years. In 2001, the Manufacturers Council called attention to a "glitch" in the Georgia unemployment insurance law. This glitch is a loophole that provides unemployment insurance to some employees when attendance is the reason for dismissal. Dukes worked with the Chamber throughout the beginning stages of investigating this issue until it was out of her local jurisdiction.

By 2005, "clarifying attendance as a reason for dismissal" had gained enough momentum to be placed on the Legislative Agendas of the Georgia Chamber and Georgia Industry Association. Goff and Wilson made numerous trips to Atlanta to testify in committee meetings and speak with Legislators on the importance of fixing the "glitch".

These two Champions of Business were instrumental in working with the Georgia Department of Labor to develop the language that will fix the "glitch" and save employers in Georgia thousands of dollars.

The Governor signed HB 520 on May 10, 2005 officially clarifying attendance as a reason for dismissal. Thank you again to our 2005 Champions of Business. Without your help, this legislation would not have been possible! You're our superheroes!

2005



DDW

7.5% Workers Comp Discount
made Permanent

**DRUGS
DON'T
WORK**

**Program celebrates
200th member**



Paul Leavy/The Valdosta Daily Times

The 50 "Charter Members" of the DRUGS DON'T WORK program received special recognition at a special breakfast honoring all 200 members of DDW on Dec. 4 at the Valdosta-Lowndes Conference Center.

260 Chamber Members save
\$200K+ - potential dollars that stay
in our regional economy



2005 Celebrate the Session 2005

Governmental Affairs Celebrates a Productive Year



Paula Goff (Regal Marine) and Jeff Hanson (Park Avenue Bank) enjoy the festivities at the "Celebrate the Session" reception on Apr. 12.

The 2005 Georgia General Assembly was a very productive time for the Chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee. Several trips to Atlanta to lobby for pro-business legislation paid off with five bills from the Chamber's Legislative Agenda for Business to be signed into law.

Seeing the passage of so much pro-business legislation does not happen often. This year, the Governmental Affairs Committee decided to celebrate by hosting its "heroes" at a "Celebrate the Session" reception on Apr. 12 at the Chamber.

"This was a banner year for the Governmental Affairs Committee," said **Jeff Hanson** (Park Avenue Bank), chairman of the committee. "The hard work of volunteers like **Paula Goff** (Regal Marine) and **Mark Wilson** (Langdale



Pictured at the Legislative Overview Luncheon on Apr. 15 at Valdosta Country Club are Abby Rozar, President of Kiwanis of Valdosta, Shirley McClain (Kiwanis), Rep. Ellis Black, Sen. Tim Golden, Rep. Jay Shaw, Rep. Ron Borders, and Jeff Hanson (Park Avenue Bank).

Industries) this year, and **Fred Wetherington** (Wetherington Farms) and **Susan Dukes** (Ga. Department of Labor) shows exactly what can be accomplished with a grassroots effort."

On Apr. 15, the Governmental Affairs Committee and the Kiwanis Club of Valdosta hosted the 2005 Legislative Overview Luncheon, with comments on the session by **Reps. Jay Shaw, Ron Borders, and Ellis Black**, and featured speaker **Sen. Tim Golden**. More than 80 business leaders were on hand as the delegation discussed the high points of the Legislative Session.

Year after year, Chamber members identify affordable healthcare as their number one legislative issue. The subcommittee decided that this year, the Washington Trip would focus primarily on this important issue. On May 11,

11 business leaders made the annual trip to Washington DC to discuss affordable healthcare with our federal delegation. One "power team" met with **Reps. Sanford Bishop, Jack Kingston, and Charlie Norwood**, and the other team met with **Sens. Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss** to talk about healthcare concerns in Greater Valdosta, and to inform them of progress on the local level. The trip also included meetings at the U.S. Chamber, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Pentagon.

This fall, the Governmental Affairs Committee will reconvene to develop the 2006 Legislative Agenda for Business. For more information on the Chamber's Governmental Affairs program, or to voice legislative concerns affecting your business, contact **Amy Karam** at (229) 247-8100, or akaram@valdostachamber.com.

2008



Manufacturing Cap

General Assembly completes 2008 legislative session



Pictured at the Capital in Atlanta are State Rep. Ellis Black, Rep. Amy Carter, State Sen. Tim Golden and Rep. Jay Shaw.

General Assembly Passes Legislation Supported By Chamber

After a remarkable opening day on Jan. 14 that began with the House overriding a dozen bills vetoed by the Governor at the end of the 2007 legislative session, the General Assembly began its work to resolve issues involving health insurance costs, water, manufacturing, business owner property rights, and other issues important to Chamber members. The General Assembly finished its session on Apr. 4 after passing numerous bills supported by the Chamber.

Legislation important to Chamber members:

AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE

Senator **Tim Golden** was successful in getting a \$150,000 planning grant for a Georgia Wellness Incentive Pilot Program in the 2008 state budget. The planning

grant is the first step to develop a program designed to help lower health insurance costs for employers and employees.

STATE WATER PLAN

The plan calls for Regional Water Councils and the Chamber is working with our local delegation to have Lowndes County representation appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House.

MANUFACTURING

Several bills passed to strengthen manufacturing, including a cap limiting the sales tax on energy used in manufacturing, expanded sales tax exemption for machinery and parts, and the creation of a "Made in Georgia" initiative to promote the sale of products made in Georgia. As Sen. Tim Golden stated, "These kinds of legislative proposals are a great start, but in my opinion, they are only a start. More needs to be done to make Georgia a leader

in and destination for industry. Manufacturers have a huge impact on the economy throughout our state, representing 10 percent of the overall workforce."

STATE SALES TAX HOLIDAY

The holiday was renewed for certain school supplies, clothing, footwear, computers, and computer related accessories from July 31 – Aug 3. This legislation was originally initiated by Valdosta citizens in 2001.

BUSINESS OWNER PROPERTY RIGHTS

Legislation preventing business owners the right to disallow firearms on business property was amended to ensure business owners retained their property rights.

Visit the Chamber's Government Affairs page at www.valdostachamber.com for more information.

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2009

State Legislative Committee Travels to the Capitol



*February 11, 2009 the State
Legislative Committee holds
briefing with State Legislators*

The top banner features a background image of a marching band in red uniforms playing drums, with an American flag on the left and a document with cursive text on the right. The text "2009 State Session" is written in a large, white, serif font, and "2009" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font to the right.

2009 State Session 2009

Successfully championed the following State business development initiatives in the 2009 Legislative Session:

- HB 120 - Renewal of Sales Tax Holiday
- Regional Water Council was formed and includes two representatives from Lowndes County, Wesley Langdale and Rusty McCall
- SB 31 - Georgia Nuclear Energy Financing Act, provides for a utility to recover from its customers the costs of financing associated with the construction of a nuclear generating plant

Championed Renewal 2009 of Sales Tax Holiday

Belk Thanks Sen. Golden for Great Sales
Tax Holiday!



"This year's B-T-S Sales Tax Holiday sales exceeded the great year we had last year. The mall parking lot was packed!" said Belk store manager Paul Clingan.

Sen. Tim Golden, original author of the Sales Tax Holiday in 2000, fights hard along with the Chamber's Government Affairs Council to get the legislation passed again each year.

"Former Belk manager Bubba Campbell was THINKING B.I.G. when he came up with the Sales Tax Holiday idea for Georgia and approached me about it. Sales Tax Holiday is a win-win for businesses and consumers, and there is no doubt that it stimulates our economy," said Golden.

Let's Get Georgia Moving 2009 Transportation Lunch



The Chamber's State Legislative Committee met with the "Let's Get Georgia Moving" Coalition regarding development of 2010 legislation on how to fund transportation for the state of Georgia.

State Legislative Committee 2009 meets with Local Delegation on Transportation Funding



The Chamber's State Legislative Committee met with local delegation members, Rep. Jay Shaw, Rep. Ellis Black, Rep. Amy Carter, and State Senator Tim Golden regarding development of 2010 legislation on how to fund transportation for the state of Georgia.

Ga Chamber Power Lunch

2009

Georgia Chamber Power Lunch ~ "Bringing Georgia Together"



Over 100 businesses attended the GA Chamber Power Lunch on August 27 at the Valdosta Country Club. The theme for the meeting was Bringing Georgia Together.

George Israel, GA Chamber CEO stated, "This was the best turnout of any of the previous 11 events we have hosted. It is obvious the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber is a Five-Star Chamber."



GA Chamber Chairman, Mike Garrett (Georgia Power Co.) stated, "In too many ways, there are still two Georgias. We all need to work together to achieve our common goals."

2009

Federal Legislative Committee
meets with
Congressman Kingston



February 9, 2009
Champions spoke on:

- *Health Information Technology Funding*
- *Labor Law Issues*
- *Energy*

Chamber Meets with 2009 U.S. Rep. Kingston

On Sept. 28, the Chamber offered the business community a private meeting with U.S. Representative Jack Kingston.



The Congressman responded to questions and comments by members of the Government Affairs Council. Randy Sauls (South Georgia Medical Center) addressed healthcare issues facing our community to Cong. Kingston, in particular, trauma care funding availability for South Georgia.

Congressman Kingston gave a brief overview of the most important issues facing our nation today including the Afghanistan war, healthcare, employment/labor law, cap and trade legislation and fiscal responsibility.

STIMULUS OR STYMIED:

2009



IS YOUR BUSINESS READY FOR THE COMING CHANGES IN
EMPLOYMENT LAWS?



*Presentations by Jason Willcox and G. Robert Ryan, Jr.
(Moore, Clarke, DuVall & Rodgers, P.C) &
Megan Smith & Anne Barnas (SmithBarnas & Associates, Inc.)
in association with the Federal Legislative Committee*





2009

Chamber leads regional meeting with Congressman Bishop



**Chamber advises Bishop
" VOTE NO on EFCA "**



Washington Fly-in 2009 Federal Legislative Champions



**Chamber champions present
2009 Federal Legislative
Agenda to U.S. Delegation,
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
and the Pentagon**



Federal Legislative Overview Luncheon with U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson

2009



Friday, April 17

12:00p.m. - 1:30p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn



2009 Local Legislative Agenda Presentations

2009

Local Legislative Agenda presentations to Cities and County



Government Affairs Council Chair, Paula Goff (SMITH Northview Hospital) presented the Chamber's 2009 Local Legislative Agenda during the Aug. 4 Lake Park City Council Meeting.

Goff stated, "This is the first year the Chamber has developed an official local agenda, and we are pleased to present it to all of our local governments and stakeholders. This is a 'living' document and will be updated as needed. We are very excited about the organization of our Gateways Committee which will be chaired by Marshall Conner (Georgia Power Co.) along with vice-chair Aaron Strickland (Keep Lowndes-Valdosta Beautiful). We are asking all of the stakeholders to appoint a representative and come together as a committee to make our Gateways more appealing."

Gateways Committee 2009 Columbus Trip

Gateways Committee Goes to Columbus on a Fact-Finding Mission



Members of the newly formed Gateways Committee visited with Columbus Chamber President, Mike Gaymon and Gateways Committee Champion, John Flournoy to study the successful gateway improvement program in Columbus, Ga.

"Gateways provide a first impression of a community to visitors upon entering, and we have implemented a thoughtful, unified strategy to strengthen and beautify the overall appearance of our community," stated Flournoy.

Census 2010 Kick-off Event

2009



It's
in



Our
Hands!

We move forward when you send it back !

Chamber promotes State Agenda

2009

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Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber 2010 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Alternative Energy & Conservation

The Chamber supports legislation implementing public policies that promote: (1) efforts to optimize energy efficiency that will lead to long-term conservation practices, (2) conversion to more environmental friendly forms of energy generation, including nuclear and clean coal technologies, (3) research and development of alternative energy sources such as bio-fuels, solar power, tidal energy and other renewable fuels produced by agronomic crops and new energy technologies, (4) energy and environmental issues that are sensitive to their short-term and long-term economic impact and that utilize proven and effective technology.

Monitor Water Council

The Chamber supports the Suwannee – Satilla Regional Water Council's vision of managing water resources in a sustainable manner under Georgia's regulated riparian and regulated reasonable use laws. Our common goal is to support the State and Region's economy, to protect public health and natural resources and to enhance the quality of life for all citizens while preserving the private property rights of Georgia's landowners and in consideration of the need to enhance resource augmentation and efficiency opportunities. The Chamber will monitor the progress of the Suwannee – Satilla Regional Water Council and the Regional Advisory Committees with the goal of sustainable Agricultural, Industrial and Municipal water use and water quality.

TAXES

Sales Tax Exemption on Energy Used for Manufacturing

The Chamber supports providing an exemption with respect to State (not local) sales and use tax for the cost of energy (natural or artificial gas, electricity, or any other energy) used directly in the production of manufactured goods.

Sales Tax Holidays

The Chamber supports providing a sales tax holiday at the beginning of the school year that would exempt sales tax on back-to-school items. The exemption would last at least four days. An additional sales tax holiday would exempt tax on energy efficient products for at least four days in 2010.

The

Trauma Care

The Chamber supports an increase in the number and funding of level one and level two Trauma Care Centers in the State of Georgia, particularly in South Georgia. Further, the Chamber believes the allocation of such funds should be made in accordance with the formula recently established by the Georgia Trauma Care Commission.

Clinic for the Working Uninsured

The Chamber supports public and private funding options for safety net clinics that provide access to health care for the working uninsured to ensure that present and future needs are met.

Civil Justice Reform

The Chamber supports monitoring and protecting the important legal and civil justice reforms that were adopted in 2005.

Wellness Statement

The Chamber supports the creation of insurance products that provide incentives to reward healthy lifestyles.

HEALTH CARE

EDUCATION

The Chamber supports improvement strategies that link education and workforce development in a seamless manner, preparing a student for whatever future they might choose and ensuring the long-term viability of our local economy. The Chamber's goal is to build the best workforce and ensure our companies have the talent they need to stay competitive.

TRANSPORTATION

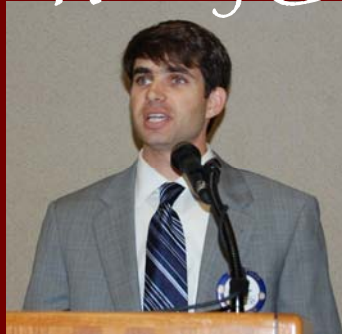
The Chamber supports the development of a thoughtful strategy that will provide the needed funding to address transportation funding needs at both the state and local level. The funding solution strategy should provide increased, dedicated, and reliable long-term funding for transportation maintenance and improvements. The Chamber will continue to actively promote top priority projects identified in the City of Valdosta's Transportation Master Plan, as well as our long-standing support for the widening of State Road 133. The Chamber also supports repealing the pickup truck exemption regarding the use of safety belt.

State Legislative Lunch

Homebuyers Forum

2009

Chamber Co-Hosts State Legislative Lunch with Rotary Clubs



State Legislative Committee presents 2010 Agenda for Business to Local Delegation



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Chamber presents State Agenda to local delegation

Pictured above: Bob Harrison (Rotary), Tom Gooding (Elliott, Blackburn & Remerton), Jeff Hanson (City of Bank), Dennis Marks (Rotary), Sen. Tim Golden, Rep. Jay Shaw, and Rep. Ellis Black at the table during the Chamber's annual State Legislative pre-session meeting.

The Chamber's State Legislative Lunch was held Dec. 2 at the Rainwater Conference Center and was co-hosted by Valdosta, Valdosta North, and Valdosta Sunrise Rotary Clubs. Champions serving on the Government Affairs Council State Legislative Committee, led by 2009 Chair Sherry Wood, presented the 2010 State Legislative Agenda for Business to the local delegation and over 150 attendees.

Keynote speakers State Sen. **Tim Golden**, Rep. **Jay Shaw** and Rep. **Ellis Black** commented on their intent to support each of the issues. "We're all looking forward to going to Atlanta and representing you on these important business development issues," said Golden. "It will be a difficult session. The budget shortfall is going to severely impact what is accomplished."

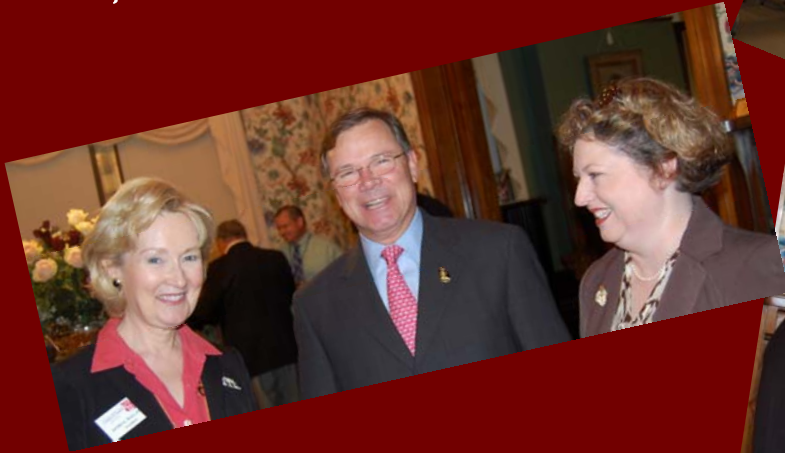
For more information on the State Legislative Committee or to be included in the 2010 Legislative Updates and Alerts, contact **Allison Stokes** at 229-247-8100 or astokes@valdostachamber.com.

Chamber hosts GDOT 2009 Commissioner Vance Smith

GAC presents Transportation Funding issue and Gateways plans to Commissioner Smith



Reception for GDOT Commissioner Smith



BUSINESS 2009

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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State Legislative Briefing in Atlanta

2010



Hosted State Legislative Briefing in Atlanta with Local Delegation, GA Retail Assoc. and the GA Chamber



State Committee Monitors Water Council

2010



Chamber attends Water Council meeting

State Legislative Committee chairman **Darrell Wilder** (Georgia Power Co.) addressed the Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Council during their quarterly meeting on March 25 at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. Wilder shared the Chamber's position stating, "The Chamber supports your vision of managing water resources in a sustainable manner and your goal to support the State and Region's economy, to preserve public health and natural resources and to enhance the quality of life for all citizens while preserving the private property rights of Georgia's landowners. We firmly believe that there is no more important economic development asset to the Valdosta Metropolitan Area than water availability and supply quality."

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13



Transportation Funding Meeting

2010

GDOT Commissioner Vance Smith

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Chamber meets with Georgia DOT Commissioner

Transportation Funding is Priority #1



The Chamber hosted an informal meeting with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Commissioner **Vance Smith** on August 11. Pictured are GDOT Board member **Jay Shaw**, GDOT Special Asst. to the Commissioner **Stephanie Carter** and GDOT Commissioner Vance Smith.

"Transportation funding will be a top issue on the agenda once again for the 2011 Legislative Session, so we went to the

source in an effort to perform our due diligence in representing our members and the community's thinking on this important transportation issue," said Chamber president **Myrna Ballard**. The Chamber invited GDOT Commissioner Vance Smith and District 1 GDOT Board member Jay Shaw to meet with local government representatives in August to discuss transportation funding.

House Bill 277 and The Georgia 2020 Transportation Act, also known as the Transportation Funding Bill, were discussed in detail. Commissioner Smith stated, "These are steps in the right direction, but we still need to look at additional funding sources for transportation due to less revenue from the motor fuel tax, which has had a diminishing return since 2007."

Jay Shaw, GDOT Board member, spoke on the importance of Senate Resolution 821, regarding GDOT multi-year construction agreements that will be voted on statewide in 2010. "We need to educate the public on how important it is to get this resolution passed for the good of transportation in Georgia," stated Shaw.

"One of the most critical issues facing our State and our community is funding for transportation system maintenance and development projects. The Chamber wants to make certain that our members and the business community as a whole have input into proposals for new transportation funding," stated Ballard.

*For more information on the Chamber's State Legislative Agenda, contact **Alison Stokes** at 229-247-8100 or astokes@valdostachamber.com.*



2010 State Session

2010

Successfully championed the following State business development initiatives in the 2010 Legislative Session:

- Transportation Funding
- Trauma Care Funding
- Seat Belt Law for Pick-up Trucks
- Water Stewardship Act of 2010
- Legislation codifying Georgia Work Ready

2010 Local Legislative Agenda

2010

Endorse Expansion of Lowndes County Commission

The Chamber supports expansion of the Lowndes County Commission.

AYP - Community Unification for Educational Excellence

The Chamber supports the Community Unification for Educational Excellence foundation in its efforts to unify our public school systems. Annual yearly progress will be monitored and reported on by a Chamber representative serving on the foundation board.

Protect Moody AFB from Encroachment

The Chamber supports the protection of Moody Air Force Base from encroachment.

Gateways

The Chamber supports the development of a Gateways Committee, coordinated by the Chamber, charged with development of a plan to improve the appearance of the gateways to our community. Members of the committee would include a representative from the Cities of Valdosta, Remerton, Hahira, Lake Park, Dasher, Lowndes County, V-L County Airport Authority, V-L County Industrial Authority, V-L County Tourism Authority, Keep Lowndes /Valdosta Beautiful, Georgia Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organization, V-L County Parks and Recreation Authority, and the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber.

Transportation Plan

The Chamber endorses a coordinated public transit system that promotes and benefits the business community and their employees.

Tax Allocation Districts

The Chamber supports the creation of Tax Allocation Districts and endorses requesting the State Legislature to pass local legislation that would allow a referendum to establish Tax Allocation Districts within the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County for the enhancement of commercial development while protecting the quality of life for the community.

Unified Land Development Code, Land Development Regulations & Urban Redevelopment Plan (ULDC), (LDR), (URP)

The Chamber advocates pro-business comprehensive planning and development and supports proposals of modifications, improvements and revisions that would lead to a stronger economy in Valdosta-Lowndes County.



Chamber develops 1st 2010 Federal Legislative Principle Statement



**Valdosta-Lowndes County
Chamber of Commerce**
**Federal Legislative
Principle Statement**

The Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce believes that government's proper role in the economy is to act and pursue policies to support and encourage a capitalistic, free enterprise system that creates a climate in which private business can flourish and be successful. We believe that one of government's primary purposes is the protection and defense of private property rights and we believe that the Federal government's role should be limited to those powers expressly given to it by the Constitution of the United States.



We believe that a government's role should be limited in nature and should encourage entrepreneurship through a tax system that rewards rather than punishes productivity and innovation.

We favor a government that is fiscally responsible, one that abides by the same laws they levy upon others, and one that responds to the will and the voices they represent while ensuring that the rights of private property and enterprise are protected.

We acknowledge that the use of government incentives can be effective, but only endorse incentives that support American jobs. We realize that government spending can be a boost to our economy if used wisely and judiciously, but this spending should be done with a limited purpose and a well-defined benefit as indicated by the will of the people.

We support and encourage our leaders to address our complex issues with innovative and creative ideas to address our concerns, but to do so without compromising our core beliefs including rights to private property and to free enterprise.

We realize that government regulation is sometimes necessary, however, regulation should always be limited in scope to address the specific problem, and the goal of any regulation should be to ensure that there is a level playing field to ensure the maximum opportunity for success for entrepreneurs and the protection of our system of private property and free enterprise. We oppose overbearing regulation that creates burdens and obstacles to private enterprise. We oppose regulation which amounts to government efforts to create social engineering through regulation of free enterprise. We oppose burdensome regulations that amount to hidden taxes on private enterprise.



Chamber promotes 2010 Federal Agenda

VALDOSTA-LOWNDES COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2010 LEGISLATIVE POLICY PRIORITIES

Education, Workforce Development & Job Creation

It is imperative to educate and train our workforce while keeping up with changes in technology and science. The Chamber promotes outreach to businesses to determine the skills and training needed for their employees in keeping up with changes in technology and science. Additionally, training must reflect the availability of employment within the area in order to retain the talent educated locally. Job creation is possible only through a strong private sector, therefore, the Chamber supports all efforts to promote free enterprise.

Energy and the Environment

The Chamber supports the development of a National Energy Policy for energy supply and demand involving both the public and private sectors. To ensure that our energy needs are met, bolster our economy, and enhance our national security, we should reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy by stepping up our domestic conservation and efficiency efforts, including nuclear and tidal, developing alternative energy sources, and increasing our own domestic production.

The Chamber will monitor water supply, ownership and quality concerns, including storm water discharges.

The Chamber opposes the imposition of carbon taxes on energy production or use.

Health Care

The Chamber supports the following efforts to improve health care:

Supports reforms that will lower costs and improve overall health care quality and accessibility, without increasing taxes on small business, that promotes fair and free enterprise in a competitive marketplace.

The Chamber supports health care Information Technology by setting open standards for health care exchange that is secure and easy to adopt.

The Chamber supports incentive program for wellness, prevention and disease management.

The Chamber supports small business purchasing groups.

Labor, Employment and Immigration

The Chamber will continue to monitor proposed legislation at the Federal level affecting employers, including Employee Free Choice Act; Fair Labor Standards Act revisions; Family and Medical Leave Act revisions; RESPECT Act; Healthy Families Act; Equal Remedies Act; Immigration Reform; and other proposals to modify or expand existing immigration, employment and labor laws. The Chamber seeks to encourage measures that are cognizant of costs to business and do not place undue new restrictions or regulations on business. The Chamber seeks to preserve exemptions for small business that are currently in place with respect to many Federal laws, such as ADA and FMLA.

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The Chamber advocates that the government deal with illegal immigrants and develop a reasonable timeline for qualified workers to obtain citizenship.

Small Business

Small businesses account for three-quarters of all new jobs in this country and embody the spirit of innovation, entrepreneurship and individual initiative.

The Chamber supports bringing together America's small businesses – the engine of economic growth – for the open exchange of information and ideas, thereby strengthening individual endeavors while amplifying the collective voice of business.

The Chamber supports incentives for small business through lower taxes and minimization of government regulations.

Taxes

The Chamber is committed to pro-growth tax policies that preserve America's global competitiveness and is opposed to tax increases that reduce businesses' ability to grow, invest and create jobs.

A successful economy depends on a tax code that rewards achievement, encourages investment and promotes growth. The Chamber supports a fair collection of sales tax that includes online and catalog retailers.

Excessive Government Regulations

The Chamber opposes excessive government regulations. Each year federal agencies issue approximately 4,000 new regulations at an annual cost of nearly \$1.1 trillion. This amount is roughly equivalent to all U.S. individual and corporate income taxes paid annually and represents a huge hidden tax on the American public. The federal regulatory system must be operated in an open and transparent manner and regulations should be based on sound, objective science. Furthermore, regulations should undergo rigorous technical analysis to ensure that they are cost-effective, flexible, and minimize regulatory burdens on business.

Standing Positions

- Monitor I-75 and SR-133
- Protect our economic engines: Moody AFB, education and health care facilities
- Support efforts to provide veterans good health care and benefits in a timely manner
- Support the U. S. Chamber of Commerce's "Free Enterprise Campaign"
- Support the U. S. Chambers of Commerce's "Let's Rebuild America Campaign: *Rebuilding America's Infrastructure – It Starts With Economic Recovery*"

Federal Legislative Committee meets with U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss

2010



U.S. Sen. Chambliss 2010 speaks at Federal Legislative Lunch

Georgia Power presents the annual Federal Legislative Update Lunch



During the Chamber's annual Federal Legislative Update Lunch, sponsored by the Georgia Power Company, U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss updated Chamber members on legislative issues pertaining to business. The event was held April 8 at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. "It is always good to hear from our U.S. Congressmen, but it is even better for them to hear from our business community. I believe Sen. Chambliss was very receptive to the Chamber's message," said Jeff Hanson (The Park Avenue Bank), Federal Legislative Committee Chair.

Pictured with Sen. Chambliss (front center) are Hanson, Megan Smith (SmithBarnas & Assoc.) Governmental Affairs Council Chair Paula Goff (SMITH Northview Hospital), Tom Putnam (Langdale Industries), Baha Zeidan (Azalea Health Innovations Inc.), Myrna Ballard and Alison Stokes (Chamber), Chamber Chair Terri Lupo (Georgia Power Co.), Laura Lerdall (That Others May Live Foundation), Brittney Foster (Packaging Corporation of America), and Tom Putnam (Langdale Industries).



Washington DC Fly-in

2010



Another productive trip to Washington, DC

The Chamber made their annual trip to Washington, DC May 24-26 visiting U.S. Air Force officials at the Pentagon, receiving a briefing from the U.S. Chamber, and meeting with U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson and U.S. Representatives Jack Kingston and Sanford Bishop to present the Chamber's 2010 Federal Legislative Principle Statement and Policy Priorities.

Pictured with Congressman Kingston (front center) are Chamber Chair Terri Lupo (Georgia Power Co.), Megan Smith (SmithBarnas & Assoc.), Jud Rackley (Brandon, Rackley & Dukes P.C.), Jerry Lupo, Government Affairs Council Chair Paula Goff (SMITH Northview Hospital), Col. Clarence Parker and Chamber president Myrna Ballard.



For more information on the Government Affairs Principle Statement and 2010 Policy Priorities, see pages 10-11 of Progress, or visit www.valdostachamber.com and select Chamber Programs/Government Affairs.

Gateways Committee receives 2010 \$10,000 in seed money from Georgia Power



Terri Lupo (Georgia Power Co.) and Gateways Chair Marshall Conner (Georgia Power Co.) present Gateways Vice Chair Aaron Strickland (KLVB) with \$10,000 in seed money for development of Gateways Master Plan.

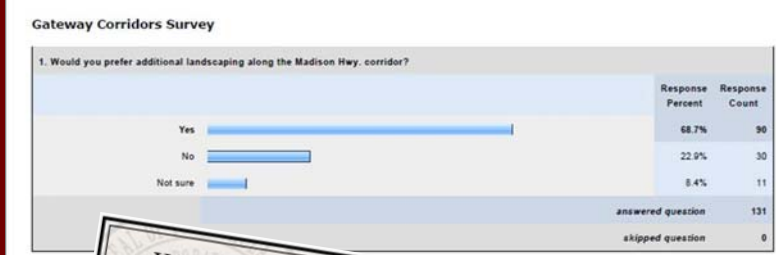
The Gateways Committee is a sub-committee of the Local Legislative Committee under the Government Affairs Council, chaired by Paula Goff (SMITH Northview).

Gateways Committee 2010 Accomplishments

Outline for Gateway's Master Plan Valdosta and Lowndes County, Georgia

- 1) Executive Summary (Committee)
- 2) Introduction (Technical Task Force)
 - A) Purpose of the Plan
 - B) What is a Gateway?
 - C) Planning Process and Public Involvement (Marketing Task Force)
- 3) Vision (Committee)
 - A) "Be the (locus)/stakeholder group for local government gateway projects"
- 4) Existing Conditions Report (Technical Task Force)
 - A) Goals
 - B) Areas to be Covered (Corridors, Intersections, point locations)
 - C) Existing Conditions Report (Technical Task Force)
 - A) Areas to be Covered (Corridors, Intersections, point locations)
 - B) Jurisdiction coordination
 - i) Jurisdiction by local jurisdiction
 - (1) Lowndes County - 1st 411, 45
 - (2) Valdosta - Gateways Plan
 - (3) Valdosta - Hill Ave. and Madison Hwy.
 - (3) Valdosta - Hill Ave. and Madison Hwy. (Adopt a Highway Task Force)
 - C) Description of Existing "Beautified" Corridors (Adopt a Highway Task Force)
 - D) Description of Gaps in Maintenance (Maintenance Task Force)
 - i) Accomplishments so far
 - ii) Identify Gaps in Maintenance (Maintenance Task Force)
 - iii) Identify "30 'little things'" that can be done to make our gateways better with little or no capital investment (weekly 30 'little things' that can be done to make our gateways better with little or no capital investment - painting, etc.)

Overall Rank	Category Rank	Traffic Count	Click for link to aerial photo	From	To
CORRIDORS					
1	1	17460	W. Hill Ave / US 84		
5	2	10580	Madison Hwy	Exit 16	W. Central Ave
8	4	19500	St Augustine Road	I-75	S. Patterson St / US 41
		26170	N. Valdosta Road	I-75	Industrial Drive
		6180	E. Hill Ave/US 84		Five Points
		7740	US 41		Lanier County Line
		16720	W. Hill Ave/US 84		East City Limits
3	3	20520	Inner Perimeter Rd	Ulmer Rd / Industrial Dr	Brooks County Line
	5	21920	St. Augustine Road		Madison Hwy
		9950	E. Hill Ave/US 84		W. Hill Ave/US 84
INTERCHANGES					
2	2	3570	Exit 13 - Construction Complete	Rocky Ford Rd	Brooks County Line
6	1	25000	Exit 16 - Construction Complete	Dak St Ext	Madison Hwy
4	4	10300	Exit 5 - Construction Pending	Blanchard St	W. Hill Ave/US 84
5	5	10503	Exit 22		East City Limits
		1462	Exit 2		
		5334	Exit 11		
		12902	Exit 12		
		5233	Exit 23		
INTERNAL POINT LOCATIONS					
		21000	E. Hill Ave @ E. Central Ave		
		21540	W. Hill Ave @ W. Central Ave		
		10210	N. Patterson @ Magnolia		
		13670	N. Ashley @ Magnolia		
		18000	Industrial Blvd @ Madison Hwy		
		8000	Industrial Blvd @ Patterson		
		5000	Five Points		
EXTERNAL POINT LOCATIONS					
910			I-75 @ I-20 Gate Line		
10			US Hwy 41 S @ Echols Co. line		
1			GA Hwy 376 @ Echols Co. line		
			New State Route Hwy @ Echols Co. line		
			GA Hwy 135 @ Echols Co. line		
			Hwy 84 @ Lanier Co. line		
			GA Hwy 135 @ Lanier Co. line		
			Remus Rd/GA Hwy 123 @ Berrien/Lanier Co. line		
			W. Hill Ave @ Lanier Co. line		



Master Plan, Chamber Survey, Prioritize Locations, Recommendations on Valdosta Gateways

Gateways Committee Business After Hours

2010



Business After Hours


VALDOSTA - LOWMYER COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Leading Businesses. Growing Communities.

Hosted by the Gateways Committee

Sponsored by **GEORGIA POWER**
A SOUTHERN COMPANY

Rainwater Conference Center
Tuesday, Sept. 21 • 5-7:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m. Networking 101

Virtual Ribbon Cutting



Visit www.ValdostaChamber.com to RSVP by Friday, Sept. 17



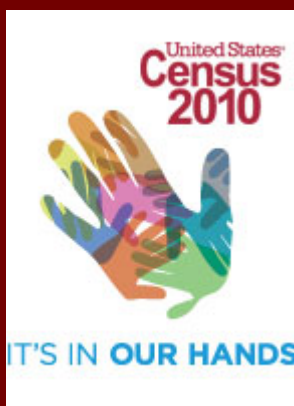
2010

Census 2010

CCC's hard work pays off

Final Mail-in Participation Rates

- Georgia: 72%
- Lowndes County: 73%
- Valdosta: 70%
- Hahira: 77%
- Lake Park: 70%



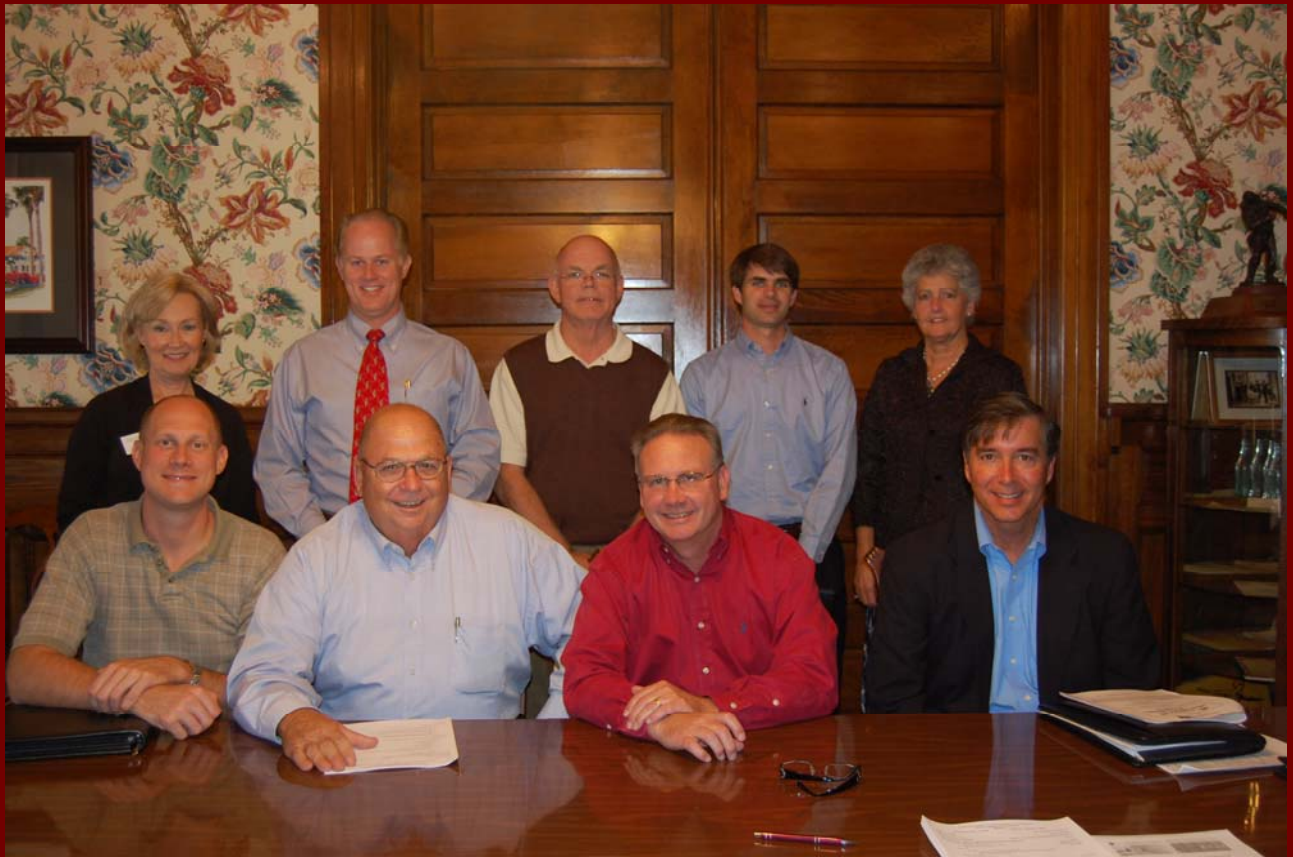
Ga Chamber Power Lunch

2010



State Legislative Committee Meets with Local Delegation

2010



Briefing on Upcoming
2011 Session

Ga Chamber Listening Session

2010



 **Georgia**
Chamber of Commerce

Chamber's "Meet the 2010 Candidates" Reception



SAVE THE SECRET BALLOT! THE VIRTUAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON

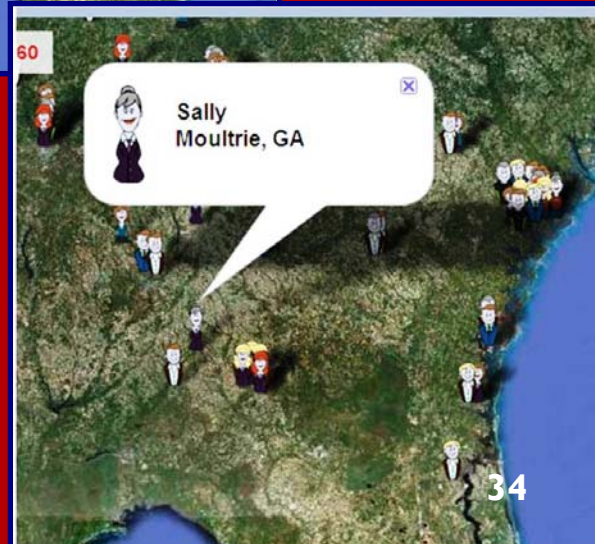
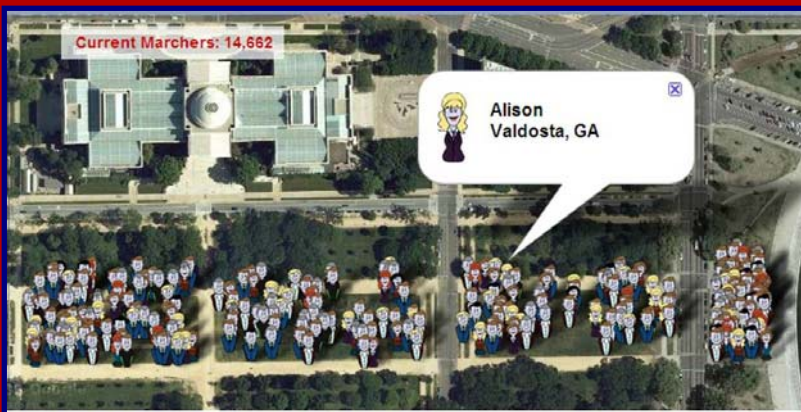
SAVE
SECRET
BALLOTS

HANDS
OFF

Save the Secret Ballot:
MARCH TODAY!

Legislative Alerts & Updates

Organize
seeking to
dramatically
American labor
with legislation that
would essentially
abolish secret ballot
elections during
union organizing
drives. By forcing
workers out of the
voting booth and
subjecting them to a
public "card check"
scheme, the bill
would take privacy,
power, and choice
away from America's
workers.





On TAP...

2010

State Legislative Luncheon

Dec. 8, 2010

12-1:30 p.m.

James H. Rainwater

Conference Center

with

Sen. Tim Golden

Rep. Ellis Black

Rep. Amy Carter

Rep. Jason Shaw



Government Affairs Council Restructure Proposal



Purpose

- To increase proactive participation and leadership;
- Identify key legislative initiatives that can enable progressive change;
- Develop and shape Policy Positions that will drive that change, to more effectively lobby to support these positions; and
- Expand communications initiatives to support this proactive shift.



Introduction

- The program currently lacks the capacity to act quickly on items as they arise unless they are specifically addressed in our legislative agendas.
- The GAC should have a forward-leading, proactive role on issues that will positively impact the community's business climate and quality of life, rather than reacting to specific bills as they are teed-up in the legislature.



Strategic Imperatives for action.

- 1. Develop a GAC Executive Committee and 7 Policy Committees.**
- 2. Authorize the GAC Executive Committee to approve Priority Issues as determined by the GAC Policy Committees under the guidelines of the Legislative Principle Statement and Policy Positions, which are approved by Chamber Board of Directors.**

- 3. Create and execute a more rigorous communications function to achieve broad alignment and support of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber's agenda.**
- 4. Represent business interests and support legislation on key issues affecting our business climate.**
- 5. Develop a strong network of top business leaders, develop a large grassroots membership and mobilize when needed on key legislative issues.**



Committees

GAC Executive Committee Structure.

The Executive Committee of the GAC shall consist of:

- **Chair and Vice Chair of the GAC;**
- **Vice Chair of Public Affairs;**
- **Chair of the Chamber Board;**
- **Chairs of 7 GAC Policy Committees;**
- **Chamber Government Affairs staff; and**
- **Chamber President.**



Committees

Policy Committee Structure.

**The GAC will consist of
7 Policy Committees:**

- **Economic Development & Taxation**
- **Education & Workforce Development**
- **Energy & Environment**
- **Health Care**
- **Transportation**
- **Business & Industry**
- **Local Business & Industry**



Terms of Service

- 1. GAC Chair and Vice Chair: one two-year term, after which they may be eligible for re-appointment.**
- 2. GAC Policy Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs (appointed by the GAC Chair and Vice Chair): serve one two-year term, after which they may be eligible for re-appointment.**
- 3. There are no term limits for GAC members.**
- 4. All members of the Chamber will be invited to serve on the GAC.**



POLICY POSITION STATEMENTS.

- **The official public positions on local, state and federal issues are known as its “Policy Positions.”**
- **Policy Positions are intended to be broad in scope, general in application and generally remain unchanged from year to year.**



PRIORITY ISSUES

- **Specific issues that are deemed a priority of the GAC and the Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce are known as "Priority Issues" .**
- **Sales Tax Holidays or Exemptions Used in Manufacturing are prime examples.**



Criteria for Priority Issues

- 1. Consistent with Policy Positions;**
- 2. Of local, statewide interest or national in character;**
- 3. General in application to the broad nature of the organization;**
- 4. Address a timely, current problem;**
and
- 5. Include background material, copies of the legislation, proposed position paper and suggested talking points that conform to the Legislative Principle Statement and the Policy Positions.**



PROCEDURES.

Policy, Priority and Legislative Positions.

The process is a member-driven process, designed to ensure that priority issues that are passed by the GAC provide a well-reasoned, strong platform for the Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber to take to the appropriate level of government.



Conclusion

The restructuring of the GAC represents a bold and aggressive strategy to dramatically increase the Chamber's capacity to deliver on its mission and solidify its position as the "Voice of Business" in our community.

We believe its successful implementation will stimulate permanent increases in capacity and effectiveness through increased membership, awareness and influence, and the expansion of its top leadership base.



Consider Proposed
Chamber Board
Policy
regarding
the Government
Affairs Council