

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Leading Businesses.
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September 18, 2008

***Board of Directors
Meeting***

@ Park Avenue Bank



**Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, August 21, 2008
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Park Avenue Bank**

AGENDA

- **Call to order, establish a quorum, and review agenda**
- **Consider minutes of the August 21, 2008 meeting**
- **OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION**
- **Chamber August 2008 Financial Statements**
- **Chamber Activity Report**
- **Report from Nominating Committee**
- **IMPACT 2012 Oversight Committee**
- **Barber House Expansion Report**

***Agenda continues* →**

➤ **Action Items to Consider**

- **Review proposed amendment to By-Laws regarding Chairman-Elect-Elect**
- **Consider consolidating Barber Trust CD and Barber Trust bank account into a money market account**
- **Consider opening Barber House Expansion Fund bank account**
- **Appoint Election Judges**

Agenda continues 



Division Reports

Economic Development Division

Terri Lupo (Vice Chairman)

- Home Grown Entrepreneurs Program
- Triple Crown Hometowns Program
- Task Force to Study the Impacts of School System Organization on Economic Development in Our Community

Public Affairs Division

Tom Gooding (Vice Chairman)

- Government Affairs Council
- Military Affairs Committee

Workforce Development & Education Division

Tim Jones (Vice Chairman)

- B.E.S.T. Program
- Workforce Development Program
- World Class Recognition Program
- DRUGS DON'T WORK Program

Agenda continues →

Business Expansion Division

Jeff Hanson (Vice Chairman)

- Targeted Business Expansion Committee
- MetroOne
- South Georgia Partnership for Regional Development

Member Services Division

David Newbern (Vice Chairman)

- Membership Report
- Marketing Committee
 - Media Presentation
- Ambassadors Committee
- Existing Industry Committee

➤ **Consider Minutes of August 21, 2008
Board Meeting**

**Minutes of the Valdosta-Lowndes County
Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
meeting held Thursday, August 21, 2008, 10:30
a.m. at the Country Inn & Suites.**

Members Present: Sally Bloom, Ed Cockman, Allan Dear, Jodi Doss, Trey Fausett, Stan Fillion, Jeff Fulp, Tom Gooding, Walter Hobgood, Tim Jones, Greg Justice, Terri Lupo, Lee Morgan, David Newbern, Giovanni Panizzi, Jay Prince, Jerome Riley, Phyllis Royal, Jane Shelton, Debra Tann, Nick Valenti and Myrna Ballard

Members Absent: Tim Coombs, Jeff Hanson and Paul Nichols

Chairman Hobgood called meeting to order and established a quorum. Chairman Hobgood noted that this is staff report day, and introduced the new process for conducting Board meetings. August 2008 kicks off the first paperless Board meeting. The Board packet will be presented with a Power Point. *(This is part of Chamber's effort to "go green" in the workplace.)*

Minutes of the July 21, 2008 Board Meeting were reviewed. S. Bloom made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction of the date for the last meeting. G. Justice seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Reaccreditation responses: Chairman Hobgood shared with the Board letters from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (Thomas J. Donohue), U. S. Senate (Johnny Isakson) and House of Representatives (Jack Kingston). (see *pgs. 5-7 of original Board packet*)

Chamber July 2008 Financial Statements: N. Valenti reviewed the Chamber financial statements. T. Lupo made a motion to accept the financial statements as presented. J. Prince seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (see *pgs. 8-31 of original Board packet*)

Chamber Activity Reports: K. Brockington and S. Lanh reported. (see *pgs. 33-34 of original Board packet*)

IMPACT 2012 Report – M. Ballard reported. (see pg. 35 of original Board packet)

➤ **ACTION ITEMS TO CONSIDER:**

- **Consider Amendment to Chamber By-Laws:**
T. Gooding made motion to adopt an amendment to Chamber By-Laws changing the date of the annual Director Election to accommodate our new Board meeting date. T. Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. (see pg. 37 of original Board packet)

- **Consider By-Laws of the Education Council, Inc. (dba B.E.S.T.)** – *D. Newbern motioned to ratify the By-Laws of the Education Council, Inc. as presented. A. Dear seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (see pgs. 39-43 of original Board packet)*

DIVISION REPORTS:

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION:

Tom Gooding, Vice Chairman

- **Government Affairs Council** – K. Boles reported. (see pgs. 44-45 of original Board packet)
- **Military Affairs Committee** – K. Brockington reported. (see pg. 46 of original Board packet)

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION DIVISION: *Tim Jones, Vice Chairman*

- **B.E.S.T. Program** – D. McAlroy reported.
- **Workforce Development Program** – D. McAlroy reported. (*see pgs. 48-49 of original Board packet*)
- **World Class Recognition Program** – D. McAlroy reported. (*see pg. 50 of original Board packet*)
- **DRUGS DON'T WORK Program** – K. Boles reported. (*see pg. 51 of original Board packet*)

BUSINESS EXPANSION DIVISION:

Jeff Hanson, Vice Chairman

- **Targeted Business Expansion Committee** – T. Nichols reported. (*see pgs. 52-54 of original Board packet*)
- **VALET** – T. Nichols reported. (*see pg. 52 of original Board packet*)
- **South Georgia Partnership For Regional Development** – T. Nichols reported. (*see pg. 52 of original Board packet*)

MEMBER SERVICES DIVISION: *David*

Newbern, Vice Chairman

- **Membership Report** - B. Morgan reported. *(see pgs 55-65 of original Board packet)*
- **Marketing Committee** – E. Butler reported. *(see pg 66 of original Board packet)*
- **Ambassador Report** – E. Butler reported. *(see pg 67 of original Board packet)*
- **Existing Industry Committee** – K. Boles reported. *(see pgs. 68-69 of original Board packet)*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION:

Terri Lupo, Vice Chairman

- **Home Grown Entrepreneurs Program** – H. Harper reported. *(see pgs 70-71 of original packet)*
- **Triple Crown Hometowns Program** – A. Stokes reported. *(see pgs 72-79 of original packet)*
- **Task Force to Study the Impacts of School System Organization on Economic Development in Our Community** – Chairman Hobgood reported.

- **President's Report:** M. Ballard reported.
(Introductions of our Newest Staff: Katie Boles and Hunter Harper)
- **Chairman's Report:** W. Hobgood spotlighted several of the programs for the outstanding progress and accomplishments during the last month's activities. Chairman Hobgood asked the Board of their opinions on the paperless meetings. The response was unanimously positive. It was suggested that the PowerPoint presentation be included on the Chamber Web Site available for all to view at anytime.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karil Brockington

Karil Brockington
Administrative Director

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY



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Operations & Administration

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY



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Financial Statements

August 2008 and 2007



Please refer your handout.....

Chamber Activity Reports



- **Referrals**
- **Web Site**



August 2008 Correspondence/Activity Report (2007 Figures in Parentheses)

Mail Correspondence:

Newcomers Packets	<u>29</u>	(60)
Visitors Packets	<u>15</u>	(3)
Students Packets	<u>0</u>	(3)

Miscellaneous Information Requested:

Request for BBB:	<u>16</u>	(5)
Email Information Requested:	<u>37</u>	(32)
Request for Events:	<u>25</u>	(2)
Civic Club Lists:	<u>3</u>	(3)
Web site Referrals by Phone:	<u>5</u>	(11)
Manufacturers List:	<u>5</u>	(1)
Request for Directions:	<u>15</u>	(25)
Maps:	<u>218</u>	(474)
Request for Wild Adventures:	<u>5</u>	(4)
Membership Info. Packets:	<u>0</u>	(2)
Phone Books:	<u>45</u>	(58)
Membership List/Email:	<u>3</u>	(7)
Total Miscellaneous:	<u>330</u>	(624)

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Member Referrals:

Total Categories: 56

Top 10

Restaurants:	<u>143 (na)</u>
Marketing/Digital:	<u>5 (na)</u>
Hotel/Motels:	<u>50 (na)</u>
Landscaping Design:	<u>14 (na)</u>
Healthcare-Physicians:	<u>33 (na)</u>
Government:	<u>12 (na)</u>
Employment Services:	<u>11 (na)</u>
Construction/Building:	<u>57 (na)</u>
Schools:	<u>50 (na)</u>
Manufacturers:	<u>6 (na)</u>
Other:	<u>77 (na)</u>

Total Member Referrals: 458 (na)

August 2008 Web Site Activity Report

www.valdostachamber.com



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce. At the top, there is a banner with three images of local buildings and the text "VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE" and "Leading Businesses. Leading Communities.™". To the right of the banner is a red outline of the state of Georgia with the chamber's logo inside. Below the banner is a navigation menu with buttons for "Business Directory", "Our Chamber", "Our Community", "Relocation Info", "Chamber News & Events", "Business Resources", "Member Services", and "Contact Us". The main content area features a large image of a classical building with white columns on the left. To the right of the image, the text reads: "Welcome to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce", followed by four bullet points: "Leading the way in improving economic opportunities for all businesses, large and small", "Creating a climate of growth and laying a foundation for success that will be strong for years to come", "Keeping businesses connected to important issues that affect the economy and lifestyle of our community", and "Providing a platform of opportunity where individuals and businesses can make a difference". Below this text, it states "Current Chamber Membership: 1,559" and "Featured Events" for "August 21, 2008": "Salute to World Class Employees Early Bird Breakfast" at the "James H. Rainwater Conference Center" from "7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.". To the right of the featured events is a red oval logo for "SCHOOL SYSTEM STUDY" and a blue and white "ACCREDITED" logo with five stars from the "UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE".

Web Site Hits:

April 2008	101,762
May 2008	135,193
June 2008	146,785
July 2008	147,533
Aug. 2008	142,842

Page Views:

April 2008	15,035
May 2008	19,738
June 2008	16,398
July 2008	16,774
Aug. 2008	15,507

Search Engine Position for Chamber Site as of August 12, 2008

	Valdosta	Valdosta Chamber	Valdosta-Lowndes
Google	First page in 3 rd place	First Page in 1 st place	First page in 1 st place
MSN	Third page in 3 rd place	First page in 1 st place	First page in 3 rd place
YAHOO	Third page in 5 th place	First page in 1 st place	First page in 3 rd place

Search Engine Position for Chamber Site as of September 12, 2008

	Valdosta	Valdosta Chamber	Valdosta-Lowndes
Google	Second page in 1 st place	First Page in 1 st place	First page in 2 nd place
MSN	Third page in 3 rd place	First page in 1 st place	Second page in 1 st place
YAHOO	Fourth page in 8 th place	First page in 1 st place	First page in 7 th place

Web Site Button Advertisers

Arthur Herndon Company Real Estate, Inc.

Coombs Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.

Park Avenue Bank

Precision Pumps

South Georgia Medical Center

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Nominating Committee for 2009 Board and Officers

Jeff Hanson, Chairman

Jodi Doss

Walter Hobgood

Nick Valenti

Myrna Ballard

Election 2009

Official Ballot for Office of Director Three-year term Board of Directors

<p>Sally Bloom Senior Manager Government Affairs Georgia Region Mediacom</p>	<p>Ed Cockman Co Owner Family Health Care</p>	<p>Walt Gill CEO Pinnacle Prime Contractor</p>	<p>Jeff Hanson Valdosta President Park Avenue Bank</p>
<p>John Manning Owner John's Body Shop, Inc</p>	<p>James McGahee CEO South Georgia Medical Center</p>	<p>Paul Nichols President Nexxtep Technology Services, Inc.</p>	<p>Phyllis Royal Owner Full Circle Marketing and Advertising Agency</p>



Mid-Year Report Card

N=37 (28.6% response)

Entrepreneur & Small Business Development	B+ (3.81)
Retiree Attraction	B+ (3.73)
Workforce Development & Education	B+ (3.54)
Expansion of Targeted Businesses	B+ (3.49)
Enhancement of Pro-Business Environment	B+ (3.30)



IMPACT ACTION

September '08 Newsletter



Workforce Development & Education

2008 Goal: Establish a "Boot Camp" to develop better managers and supervisors. Goal for 2008 is 100 managers and supervisors.

Boot Camp for First Time Supervisors was held on Aug. 26 at the Department of Labor with 29 supervisors in attendance. A total of 92 supervisors have attended Boot Camp this year.



World Class Employee Recognition Breakfast was held on Aug. 21 at the Conference Center with Dawn Hobby, news anchor for WALB-TV as the keynote speaker. This year's program was a success with 22 nominees. Thanks to the sponsorship of First State Bank and Trust Company, this year's program provided four outstanding local employees with proof that good work ethics really pays — each received a check for \$1,500!



MetroOne surveyed 81 young professionals during the Second Annual Young Professionals day on Sept. 5 to gauge the success of MetroOne over the past year and to inquire into the young professionals' perspectives on the business world in Valdosta.



Entrepreneurial and Small Business Development

2008 Goal: To serve 500 clients in the S.E.E.D.S. Center (Sowing Entrepreneur and Economic Development Success).

The S.E.E.D.S. Center served 60 clients in August, bringing the total clients served to 446.

A special breakfast meeting for area commercial lenders was held on Sept. 9 at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center with 30 in attendance. Don Betts (Georgia Tech) encouraged the Chamber and local lenders to create a South Georgia Angel Investor Network to provide start-up financing.

Expansion of Targeted Businesses

2008 Goal: To facilitate the creation of 200 new jobs for college and university graduates in Information Technology, Environmental Technology, and Medical Services and Support.



The Guardian Bank Business Plan Competition kicked off its 4th annual competition on Aug. 28. 30 entries were submitted. The winner will be announced in April 2009.



The South Georgia Partnership for Regional Development hosted George Israel, President and CEO of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, on Aug. 11. Israel focused on creating partnerships with our neighboring communities, noting the long-standing partnerships in our region such as the S.E.E.D.S. Center of South Georgia for entrepreneurs, DRUGS DON'T WORK Partnership, and Triple Crown Hometowns. Israel commended our communities for our successful regional approach in so many areas. He also praised the regional chamber executives for recognizing the need to create successful regional programs, adding that when one community celebrates an accomplishment it is shared with everyone.

Enhancement of Pro-Business Environment

2008 Goal: Host a regular forum among elected officials, education leaders and other economic development partners regarding business issues and initiatives.

VALET (Valdosta And Lowndes Expansion Team) is surveying businesses that have recently experienced the start-up process to determine how Lowndes County and our municipalities can become even more business-friendly. Results of the survey will be available at the end of September.



Retiree Attraction

2008 Goal: Develop and implement targeted national advertising for retiree recruitment and expand the marketing efforts of the Triple Crown Hometowns Program

The Valdosta-Lowndes County area was featured in the nationally published *Where to Retire* magazine. According to **Mary Lou Abbott**, *Where to Retire* editor, Valdosta has many of the qualities that are important to today's retirees.



This month's featured "CHAMPION OF BUSINESS"

"ERCO Worldwide saw IMPACT 2012 as an opportunity to make a significant difference in the Valdosta-Lowndes County area economy by becoming an investor in this initiative."

-Jeff Fulp
Plant Manager



Barber House Expansion Report

**Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce
Barber House Expansion & Improvement Task
Force Minutes of Meeting
3:30 p.m., September 8, 2008**

Members present: Jeff Hanson (Chairman), Paul Nichols, Myrna Ballard, David Durland, Bill DeCoudres, Stan Fillion, Walt Gill, Terri Lupo, Tom Gooding and Darrell Wilder

Others present: Richard Hill and Johnette Snyder
Hanson called the meeting to order. Fillion made a motion to accept the minutes of June 23, 2008 meeting as presented. Lupo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Hanson noted the Chamber Board has voted to proceed with the building expansion and the creation of this task force; Chairman of the Board Walter Hobgood appointed members and appointed Hanson chairman.

After much discussion the consensus was that the Chamber had explored all feasible options for additional office space and the decision to expand the Barber House was the most efficient, practical and cost effective way to accomplish this.

Hill distributed detailed architectural drawings that were 98% complete. Hill stated the State Historic Preservation Office has approved the preliminary drawings. The SHPO does not need to review the drawings again until the Chamber is ready to proceed with the expansion.

After presenting the facts, Hanson asked the group: (1) if the timing was appropriate for a fund-raising campaign for the expansion of the Barber House and (2) if the task force is willing to lead this effort. Fillion stated that the timing is appropriate. Durland noted that the Chamber has made a great deal of progress on the IMPACT 2012 initiatives, and that these expanded initiatives have created the need for additional staff. Because of this progress, along with the Chamber's recent 5 star accreditation, Durland feels the community will understand the need for an expansion of the building, and we should proceed. Lupu noted that there are IMPACT 2012 investors who will want to support the building expansion as well. Gill expressed his commitment to proceed with identifying in-kind contributors, and felt that we will encounter a great deal of support for the expansion. The general consensus is that the task force is completely supportive and prepared to lead a fund-raising effort for the expansion and improvement of the Barber House.

There was discussion regarding whether a perpetual maintenance fund should be included in the fund-raising effort. The general consensus was to include as many needed improvements to the existing building in the campaign (e.g. a new roof, painting interior and exterior of the entire house, replacing the carpet on the entire second floor and replacement of air conditioning units) and to recommend that the Chamber create an ongoing committee to identify revenue sources for a perpetual maintenance fund for the Barber House.

Hanson noted a goal needed to be set for the project. Hill shared his cost estimates for the project. The goal suggested to accomplish the expansion and the needed improvements to the existing structure was \$777,000. Durland made a motion to set a goal of \$777,000. Nichols seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

After much discussion, the general consensus was that these next steps should commence:

- Ballard will speak to Steve Dorough with FCD on advice for solicitation materials.
- Hill will forward the completed drawings to Gill.
- All prospects related to building construction will be earmarked for Gill.
- Ballard and Snyder will develop campaign solicitation materials to include, history of the house, documentation needed for additional space,

description of proposed expansion with goal of developing a compelling case for support.

- Snyder will forward each division leader a list of the active volunteers who called on IMPACT 2012 prospects.
- Ballard and Snyder will develop a list of promising prospects (minus prospects involved in the building construction business) who either did not participate in IMPACT 2012 or were not directly approached.

It was agreed by all that the campaign planning will be completed by the end of September. It was also agreed by all the campaign will begin mid-October and to be concluded by November 14.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Johnette Snyder
Administrative Assistant

➤ Action Items to Consider

- Review proposed amendment to By-Laws regarding Chairman-Elect-Elect

ARTICLE V

Officers

Section I: Determination of Officers The Board of Directors (new and retiring) at its regular November meeting shall reorganize for the coming year. The Nominating Committee for Directors shall also nominate officers each year. At this meeting, the Board shall elect the Chairman of the Board, Vice Chairman - Administration, Vice Chairman-Economic Development, Vice Chairman-Membership & Marketing, Vice Chairman-Community Affairs, and Vice-Chairman-Business Promotions & Services, and the Treasurer. Officers will be elected from members of the new Board. A Chairman-Elect and a Chairman-Elect-Elect will be elected from among the Vice Chairmen and Treasurer. All officers shall take office on the first day of the new fiscal year (January 1) and serve for a term of one (1) year or until their successors assume the duties of office. They shall be voting members of the Board of Directors.

- Consider consolidating Barber Trust CD and Barber Trust bank account into money market account
- Consider opening Barber House Expansion Fund bank account

➤ **Appoint Election Judges**

**2008 Election Judges
will meet
Friday, Oct. 19, 12 noon
@ the Chamber**

Mr. Michael Anderson

**Express Employment
Professionals
1712 Gornto Rd
Valdosta, GA 31601
Phone: (229) 293-0030**

Mr. Craig Moore

**Southeastern Freight Lines
2126 W. Hill Avenue
Valdosta, GA 31601
Phone: (229) 247-1859**

Ms. Jerry Kuzoch

**South Georgia Vein Center
3338-M County Club Drive
Valdosta, GA 31605
Phone: (229) 259-9666**

Ms. Gelaine Foster

**Eye Associates of South GA,
LLC
3024 N. Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31602
Phone: (229) 293-0773**

Ms. Marcie Dennard

**Park Avenue Bank
P.O. Box 3730
Valdosta, GA 31604
Phone: (229) 242-7758**

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Division Reports

Economic Development Division Reports



**Terri Lupo
(Vice Chairman)**

**VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
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Regional Report - August 2008

	Lowndes	Region	Total (YTD)	Aug 2007 (YTD)
Clients				
Start-up	21	0	21 (161)	25
Existing	23	0	23 (107)	10
Returning	3	0	3 (30)	4
General Info	6	0	6 (60)	4
Developer/Realtor	0	0	0 (19)	6
Overall	58	0	58 (446)	49 (317)

Outcomes				
Business Established	1	1	2 (12)	(10)
Business Expanded	0	0	3 (6)	(4)
Chamber Member	5	1	5 (24)	(15)



Regional Report - August 2008

Resources				
ABC's	14	2	16 (183)	(97)
Demographics	16	0	16 (106)	(100)
Mosaic	3	0	3 (9)	(4)
Traffic Counts	0	0	0 (15)	(13)
Mailing Lists	30	0	30 (186)	(47)
Retail Lease Trac	0	0	0 (3)	(14)
Loan/Grant Info	7	0	7 (11)	(9)

Web site Activity				
Visits			1,124	N/A
ABC Downloads			16	“”

Professional Consultants Program



August 2008 Report

	Month	Quarter	Total YTD
Consulting Hours			
Accounting	2	3	12
Legal	3	5	19
Banking	0	0	0
Financial Planning	0	1	1
Org. Development	0	1	3
Marketing	3	8	26
Web Design	0	0	1
Insurance	0	0	1
Development / Planning	0	0	2
Architecture	0	0	0
Computer Networking	0	0	1
Mediation Services	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Overall	8	18	66

	Quarter	Year
Goals		
Consultation Hours	19	75
New Consultants	2.5	10

New Consultants Recruited (YTD)

6

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Plug Into Profit

Gain an EDGE in today's economy

This workshop will show you
three ways to profit in the
Global Marketplace:

- Use Competitive Intelligence to make wise business decisions
- Optimize your website for fast revenue growth
- Increase sales through International Trade



Sponsored by the Georgia Department of Economic Development
Regional Small Business & Innovation Program

Valdosta
October 14



Byron
October 15



Athens
October 16

Sponsored by:

**The Valdosta-Lowndes County
Chamber of Commerce,
The Georgia Department of Economic
Development and the
OneGeorgia Authority**

For information and registration, please visit:

www.regonline.com/plugintoprofit

or Contact the Chamber at

229-247-8100



Monthly Activity Report
Period: August 2008

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Cum</u>
Advertising leads:	0	0	342
Web site hits:	13,001	5,646	1,636,783
Web page requests:	1,997	NA	1,997
Web site leads:	27	19	1,240
Brochure leads:	0	0	20
Other TCH leads:	7	1	207
Quitman Chamber leads:	0	0	27
Valdosta Chamber leads:	4	6	191
Lakeland Chamber leads:	0	0	1
Other source leads:	0	0	1,490
Total leads active	38	26	3,376



RELOCATIONS

- **Relocations (Households): 240**

Lowndes: 207 Brooks: 21 Lanier: 12

- **2008 Relocations: 23**
- **States inquiring: 47**
- **Relocations from: FL: 125, GA: 33, NY: 14, AL: 2, CA: 6, CO: 4, IL: 3, MI: 6, VA: 3, IN: 1, MD: 3, ME: 1, OR: 1, AZ: 1, UT: 1, NM: 2, MA: 1, TN: 4, NJ: 3, MN: 1, LA: 3, MS: 6, NJ: 1, NC: 1, NH: 1, TX: 3, UN: 10**
- **Newcomers sources:**
 - TCH-Web site/Call in/Brochure: 162
 - B-Q Chamber: 6
 - V-L Chamber: 28
 - L-L Chamber 0
 - Advertising: 1
 - Other: 43



ECONOMIC IMPACT

- **Annual Income: \$34,320,000**
- **Annual Spending: \$8,640,000**
- **Liquid Assets: \$1,008,000,000**
- **Indirect Jobs Created: 480**

(average according to industry standards)

Hometown Happenings

THE SOUTH GEORGIA RETIREE
PREMIER NEWSLETTER

Monthly Publication

Volume 6, Issue 7

By Janet Groene

Valdosta

Southern Georgia area has retirement on its mind,
with diverse cultural, outdoor activities and low taxes

Carl Bleier is up to his neck in volunteerism, golf and grandkids. But it wasn't always this way for the 62-year-old one-time international executive who retired to Valdosta, a small city in southern Georgia, in 2004.

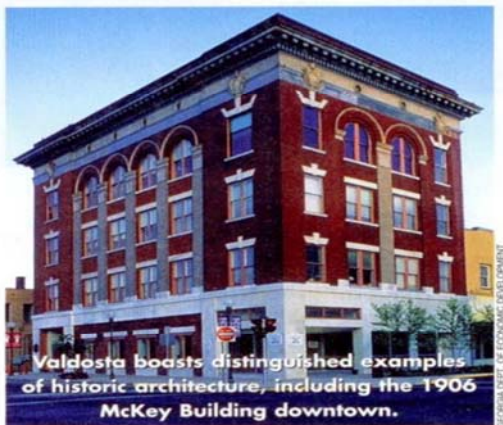
"I'm not retired. I'm rewired," says Carl with a grin. He lived all over the country and traveled worldwide before he founded his own consulting firm in Valdosta and then retired for a second time. "It's not about me anymore. It's about giving back," he says.

"Carl and his wife, Shelly, are exactly the kind of retirees we hope

to recruit," enthuses Alison Stokes, coordinator for the three-county Triple Crown Hometowns Retirement Development Partnership. The group was founded after community leaders realized the importance of diversifying beyond an economy that relied heavily on agriculture and a military base. "Our area has the amenities needed to attract active, affluent, well-educated retirees who have a sense of community, belonging and giving," Stokes says.

Now couples like the Bleiers are elated to find that their adopted hometown yields exciting new discoveries every day. "We're a household of four generations of women," explains Carl, whose mother lives with the family and whose daughters also relocated to Valdosta, adding a couple of grandchildren to the happy mix. Carl and Shelly, 58, find endless things to do with the young folks, from fishing to children's golf clinics. They

also take advantage of an excellent adult day-care center where Carl's mother, an Alzheimer's patient, can participate in activities two or three days a week.



Valdosta boasts distinguished examples
of historic architecture, including the 1906
McKey Building downtown.

Valdosta took its name from the estate of a Georgia governor, George Troup's Val d'Aosta, which was adapted from the name of a region in Italy. Until recent years, the city was just an overnight stop on Interstate 75 for Florida-bound retirees. Now southbound retirees are pausing to take a longer look at the area, often finding exactly what they were seeking. Meanwhile, the flow of northbound retirees has grown to a flood of hurricane-weary Floridians who are leaving the state. They check in with real estate companies, eager to return if and when they sell their Florida homes in a difficult market.

Home sales in the Sunshine State may be sluggish, keeping some would-be escapees from buying in the

**VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
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- ✓ **Task Force to Study the Impacts of School System Organization on Economic Development in Our Community**

Public Affairs Division Reports



**Tom Gooding
(Vice Chairman)**

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Government Affairs Update

Combustible Dust Meet and Greet

August 29, 2008 7:00-8:00 a.m.

Featuring Insurance and Fire Safety

Commissioner John Oxendine

Spoke about:

Dangers of Combustible Dust

Education

Wellness Initiative

Fair Tax

Water Council

11 guests in attendance



LOWNDES COUNTY POLITICAL FORUM

*In Memory of
Virginia Branan*



James H. Rainwater
Conference Center
Tuesday, October 14, 2008
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Thank you to our 3rd Quarter
Red Carpet Sponsors
September 13, 2008
Laura Lerdall, Chairman**



Four Star Sponsors

Ambling Companies
Barker Realty & Auction Company, Inc.
Bemiss Citizens Bank
Bruce Sumner
Colonial Bank – Mortgage Division
Eye Associates of South GA, LLC
Georgia Power Company
Get Active – Running & More
J. Randall Hicks, Attorney
McCrary-Daniels Insurance Agency, Inc.
Pinnacle
Smitty's Package Store
Southeastern Federal Credit Union
Steel's Jewelry
Sunny Honda-Mitsubishi-KIA
The Herndon Company
Turner Furniture Company
Valdosta Daily Times
Valdosta Technical College
WAL-MART Supercenter

Red Carpet Sponsors, continued



One Star Sponsors

Ace Electric

ADT Security Company

All States Moving & Storage, Inc.

First State Bank & Trust Co.

Georgia Gulf Sulfur Corp.

Guardian Bank

Lowndes County Sheriff's Office

Park Avenue Bank

Ron Borders GMAC Real Estate

Staten Crossing Apartments/Tall Tree Apartments

Synovus Mortgage

Valdosta Flying Service

Workforce Development & Education Division Reports



**Tim Jones
(Vice Chairman)**

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Leading Businesses.
Leading Communities.™



Literacy Fair

Saturday, September 20, 2008

10:00AM-2:00PM

Sam's Club

450 Norman Drive

Valdosta, GA

**Please bring a gently used or new children's
or chapter book to Sam's Club and
receive a one-day shopping pass!**

**Join us for storytelling, face painting,
and great information on literacy in our community!**

**Find out ways to get your child involved or how you can get involved to
help our community stay a Certified Literate Community!**

A very special thanks to our sponsors:

Valdosta Technical College

Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce

Sam's Club

For more information, please call 229.247.8100.



Helping Your Child Succeed Presentations

Company	Date	Business Presenter	School Presenter	Parents
Union Tank Car Company	27-Mar-08	Jim Roberts	LaVerne Rome	7
Country Inn and Suites	10-Apr-08	Maggie Roberts	LaVerne Rome	12
Regal Marine	1-May-08	Jim Roberts	LaVerne Rome	22
Lowndes Teen Plus Center	13-May-08	Greg Justice	Judy Martin	13
Summer Educator Academy	2-Jun-08	Jim Roberts	Maggie Roberts	13
La Quinta Inn	24-Jun-08	Bill Tillman	LaVerne Rome	6
South Georgia Regional Library	28-Jul-08	Jim Roberts	Halley Little	11
Hudson Dockett and Ora Lee West	5-Aug-08	Greg Justice	LaVerne Rome	15
Department of Family and Child Services		Barbara Corbitt	LaVerne Rome	79
SAFT America	8-Oct-08	Jim Roberts	LaVerne Rome	

Parents Reached	178
	Goal 400

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Boot Camp Report 2008

	Goal Attendance	Actual Attendance
March 4, 2008	25	30
May 20, 2008	25	33
August 26, 2008	25	29
November 18, 2008	25	N/A
Grand Total	100	92

Participating Companies

Alpha Pro-Tech	American Drill Bushing
Ameris Bank	Best Western
Cowart Electric	Curacare Health Services
Dillard's Distribution Center	Econo Lodge
Elite Structures, Inc.	ERCO Worldwide
Eye Associates of South Georgia	First State Bank Trust
Goodwill Career Center	Honey Baked Ham
Hospice of South Georgia	Juneau Construction
King Moving and Storage Inc.	Langdale Forest Products
Langdale Place	Marble Slab Creamery
Park Avenue Bank	Preferred Outlets
Propex, Inc.	Radiology Associates
Shaw Industries	Sleep Inn, Inn and Suites
South Georgia Medical Associates	Sunset Farm Foods
The Herndon Co.	Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber
Vuican Steel	Wild Adventures

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

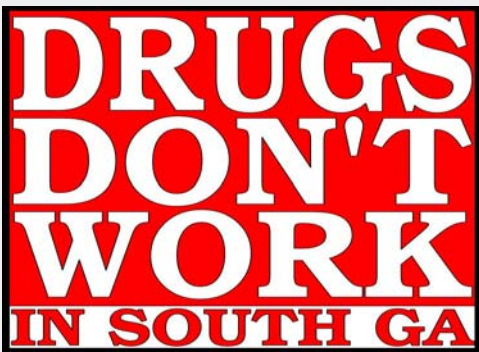
Leading Businesses.
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World Class Employee Recognition Program

***FIRST STATE BANK
AND TRUST CO.***

a **SYNOVUS** bank

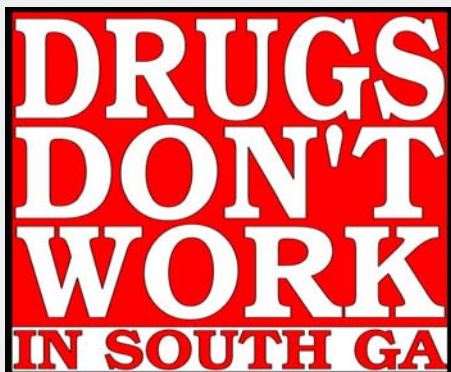


August 2008 Summary

Total # of DDW Partners as of 12/31/07:	260	
Total # of DDW Partners as of 08/31/08:	265	
2008 New Members:	8	
2008 Losses:	3	
YTD Net Gain:	5	
	10	<i>needed to meet goal (275)</i>

Valdosta-Lowndes County

Total # of DDW Partners as of 12/31/07:	220		
Total # of DDW Partners as of 08/31/08:	225		
YTD Net Gain:	5		
	YTD	August	Total
Valdosta-Lowndes New Prospects:		10	10
Valdosta-Lowndes Aged Prospects:	26	5	31
Valdosta-Lowndes Contacts:	26	11	37
New members:	8	0	8
Losses:	2	1	3



August 2008 Summary, continued

Regional Program

Total # of DDW Partners as of 12/31/07: 40

Total # of DDW Partners as of 08/31/2008: 40

YTD Net Gain: 0

	<u>YTD</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Total</u>
Regional New Prospects:	2	0	2
Regional Aged Prospects:	118	23	141
Regional Contacts:	118	24	142
New members:	0	0	0
Losses:	0	0	0

	<u>YTD</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Fav/(Unfav)</u>
Training (hours)	481.7	88.4	570.1	800.0	-229.9
Revenue	\$15,300.00	\$1,650	\$16,950.00	\$50,500	(\$33,550.00)



Please join us for the

October SGEC Meeting



featuring

Chuck Wade
President & CEO
The Council on Drugs
and Alcohol

Wednesday, October 8, 2008
Session 1: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Session 2: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
City Annex
300 N. Lee St.
Valdosta, GA 31601

\$35 per session before October 1, 2008

\$50 per session after October 1, 2008

Contact Katie Boles at 229-247-8100 for more information

Business Expansion Division Reports



**Jeff Hanson
(Vice Chairman)**

**VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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Business Expansion Division

Targeted Business Expansion Committee

- Began compiling data for benchmarks to define current situation and measure progress.
- Developed survey and inventoried Knowledge Based Businesses in Valdosta.

Tech Train Luncheon

Valdosta Technical College
August 26, 2008

Topic: Microsoft Outlook 2007
Facilitator: Ryan Williams with Nexxtep
Technology Services, Inc.
29 attendees

Business Expansion Division, continued

South Georgia IT Professionals Network

South Georgia IT Professionals Network meeting held Sept. 9, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

12 IT professionals attended the roundtable network meeting.

ConnecTECH Innovation Expo

Sept. 11 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

James H. Rainwater Conference Center.

Nearly 75 people attended the event. Attendees learned about local IT service providers and heard special presentations from event sponsors. There were 12 vendors present.

Sponsors Included:

Verizon Wireless – lead sponsor

Network Technology Solutions – co-sponsor

Virtual World Technologies – co-sponsor



Sept. 5, 2008
2nd Annual

MetroOne Young Professionals Day



“Critical Workplace Competencies”

A MetroOne Professional Development Seminar

Date: September 24, 2008

Time: 8 A.M.– 1 P.M.

Place: Valdosta Technical College
Building 500

Cost: \$15

To Register:

Please mail or fax this form to:

Diana McAlroy
PO Box 790
Valdosta, GA 31603-0790
FAX: 229.245.0071

Lunch will be provided.

9AM Choice 1- “Working in a Multi-Generational Workforce”- *April Lamon, Valdosta Technical College*

9AM Choice 2- “How to improve organization and increase productivity using technology.”-
Ryan Williams, Nexxtep

10AM Choice 1- “Creating Memories Worth Repeating”- *Bob Montgomery, Wild Adventures*

10AM Choice 2- “Dealing with Difficult Employees”-
Jim Roberts, South Georgia Regional Library

11AM Choice 1- “5 Ways to Increase Profits in Your Business”- *Michael Jetter, Action Coach*

11AM Choice 2- “How to Market Yourself”- *Renee Parker, Talk 92.1*

Lunch Speaker- “Developing an Attitude of Success”-
Mark Webb, The Relationship Specialist

Attendee Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Speaker Choices: Session 1- _____ Session 2- _____ Session 3- _____

Check Enclosed (Payable to Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber)

Send Invoice

Bill my Credit Card Circle One: Visa Mastercard

Card # _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____

MetroOne Network
Metro Valdosta Young Professionals
One Voice • One Vision • One Community 

South Georgia Partnership for Regional Development

*“Identifying common threads within the region
that can translate into economic growth for the region”*

Please join us for a [Complimentary Lunch](#)

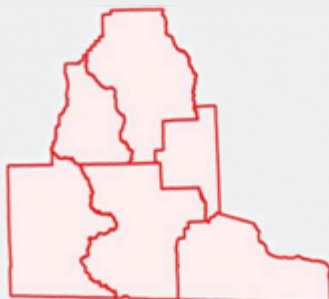
Keynote Speaker: Mike Beatty
Commissioner,
Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Monday, November 10, 2008

12:00 — 1:30 p.m.

James H. Rainwater Conference Center, Valdosta, GA

You **MUST** register for lunch by calling the
Chamber, or e-mailing:
mporter@valdostachamber.com



South Georgia

Partnership for Regional Development

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Member Services Division Reports



**David Newbern
(Vice Chairman)**

**VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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Dues Collection Report

Monthly

2007 & 2008

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Dec.	33,953.84	32,103.00		
Nov.	27,940.34	24,189.45		
Oct.	34,530.00	25,788.36		
Sep.	30,053.25	33,359.83		
Aug.	29,929.75	29,994.19	31,056.19	1,062.00
July	34,782.50	29,223.75	38,982.60	9,758.85
June	21,691.25	33,757.94	27,435.67	(6,322.27)
May	30,796.01	20,674.42	30,457.34	9,782.92
Apr.	25,242.35	23,849.84	31,264.43	7,414.59
Mar.	35,800.77	39,974.04	14,879.68	(25,094.36)
Feb.	34,679.77	29,199.04	22,659.50	(6,539.54)
Jan.	39,124.18	45,297.34	48,150.38	2,853.04

Dues Collection Report, continued

Year-To-Date

2007 & 2008

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Dec.	39,124.18	367,411.20		
Nov.	39,124.18	335,308.20		
Oct.	39,124.18	311,118.75		
Sep.	39,124.18	285,330.39		
Aug.	39,124.18	251,970.56	244,885.79	(7,084.77)
July	39,124.18	221,976.37	213,829.60	(8,146.77)
June	39,124.18	192,752.62	174,847.00	(17,905.62)
May	39,124.18	158,994.68	147,411.33	(11,583.35)
Apr.	39,124.18	138,320.26	116,953.99	(21,366.27)
Mar.	39,124.18	114,470.42	85,689.56	(28,780.86)
Feb.	39,124.18	74,496.38	70,809.88	(3,686.50)
Jan.	39,124.18	45,297.34	48,150.38	2,853.04



Membership Summary Report As of August 31, 2008

DUES COLLECTED YEAR TO DATE: \$244,885.79
2008 goal for Dues Collection: \$396,000.00

NEW MEMBERS YEAR TO DATE: 158
2008 Goal: 244

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 1,556
2008 Goal: 1,550

NET MEMBERSHIP GAIN IN AUGUST: (7)
NET MEMBERSHIP GAIN IN 2008: 36
2008 Goal: 31

2008 Retention Goal: 86%
(Industry Average: 80%)



New Members

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Jan	18	16	16	16	22
Feb	17	22	18	14	16
Mar	39	16	20	20	13
April	20	34	20	16	22
May	21	23	41	26	23
June	15	16	12	29	25
July	16	8	10	13	15
Aug	14	18	16	17	22
Total	160	153	153	151	158
Sept	67	75	54	41	
Oct	24	7	13	48	
Nov	11	13	11	14	
Dec	12	7	12	9	
Total	274	255	243	263	158



New Members

August 2008

Arthur Hendon Co. Real Estate

Dedra Hughes

1100 N. Patterson Street

Valdosta, GA 31601

(229)244-1992

REAL ESTATE AGENT

Azalea City Branch of Quota International of Valdosta, Ga.

Deborah McDonald

P O Box 5441

Valdosta, GA 31603-5441

(229) 247-8484

ORGANIZATIONS/NON-PROFIT

City Market

Jessica Newman

101 N. Patterson Street

Valdosta, GA 31601

(229) 219-0007

RETAIL

PRODUCTS/SERVICES

Country Hearth Inn & Suites

Peggy Lawrence

2811 N Ashley Street

Valdosta, GA 31602

(229) 242-2777

HOTELS/MOTELS

Demare

Wallcoverings, LLC

Pieter de Mare

1827 Hazel Drive

Valdosta, GA 31602

(229) 977-7960

PAINTS/PAINTERS/SUPPLIES

E-Travel Anytime

Cindy Hotchkiss

100 N Patterson Street

Valdosta, GA 31601

(229) 269-4690

TRAVEL SERVICES



New Members

August 2008

FPC of Valdosta

Kris Jensen

100 N Patterson Street Suite N

Valdosta, GA 31601

(229) 834-1538

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Hungry Howie's

Megan Spooner

118 A Northside Drive

Valdosta, GA 31602

(229) 251-2145

RESTAURANTS

Liberty National Life Insurance Company-

Sandra G. Davis

Sandra Davis

186 Benefield Road

Nashville, GA 31639

(229) 237-0707

INSURANCE

Life Bible

Church/Bryan Adkins Ministries

Bryan Adkins

P O Box 924

Valdosta, GA 31603

(229) 412-0565

CHURCHES

Mark A. Roland, DMD, PC

Karin Roland

101-D W Northside Drive

Valdosta, GA 31602

(229) 244-0944

DENTISTS/DENTAL

LABS/DENTAL CARE

Network Technology Solutions

Scott Smith

119 E. Jackson Street

Thomasville, GA 31792

(229) 226-2110

COMPUTER

SALES/SERVICES/REPAIR/S

UPPLIES/CONSULTANT



New Members August 2008

New York Life-NYLIFE Securities

Donna Arnold
2410 Bemiss Road Suite A
Valdosta, GA 31601
(229) 247-1005
INSURANCE

New York Life-NYLIFE Securities

Lori Gregory
2410 Bemiss Road, Suite A
Valdosta, GA 31602
(229) 247-1005
INSURANCE

Passage 2 India

Neil Patel
2910 E North Ashley Street
Valdosta, GA 31602
(229) 219-7276
RESTAURANTS

Raceway

Michael Hughes
635 Park Avenue
Moody, AL 35004
(770) 843-2963
CONVENIENCE STORES

Southwest Georgia Area Health Education Center

Denise Famellette
1500 N Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31698
(229) 333-7431
ORGANIZATIONS/NON-
PROFIT

Talbots

Fancy Hattaway
1830 Norman Drive
Valdosta, GA 31601
(229) 247-2494
CLOTHING



New Members

August 2008

TitleTown Realty

Mandy Painter

1115 Slater Street

Valdosta, GA 31601

(229) 247-0898

REAL ESTATE

Valdosta Imaging and Portraiture

Billy Rowe

902 Baytree Road

Valdosta, GA 31602

(229) 293-1388

PHOTO

PROCESSING/PRINTING/SUPPLIES

Valdosta Kwik Wash

David Gray

1000 N. Ashley Street

Valdosta, GA 31601

(229) 242-9015

AUTOMOBILE-CLEANING

VETUNES RADIO

David Hall

4106 Quail Hollow Circle

Valdosta, GA 31602

(877) 417-9338

MEDIA-RADIO STATION

**VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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**Dues Account Status Report
August 2008**

<u>Billing Period</u>	<u>Accounts Receivable</u>	<u>Collections</u>	<u>Collection Rate</u>
Current	\$29,662.30	\$11,171.44	38%
Previously Collected for current month	_____	\$7,253.75 _____	24%
Total Current	\$29,662.30	\$18,425.19	62%
1-30 Days	12,976.32	2,147.50	17%
31-60 Days	5,693.81	350.00	6%
61-90 Days	6,958.71	525.00	8%
91-120 Days	5,021.90	30.00	1%
120+ Days	<u>14,927.22</u>	<u>3,680.00</u>	25%
Subtotal	\$75,240.26	\$25,157.69	33%
New Members	\$3,531.50	\$3,531.50	
Total	<u>\$78,771.76</u>	<u>\$28,689.19</u>	36%

Dues Account Status, continued →

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
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Dues Account Status, continued

Previously collected for current months:

May	0.00
June	0.00
July	7,253.75
Total	<u><u>\$7,253.75</u></u>

Pre-Paid Dues for future months:

September	13,587.00
October	3,287.50
November	0.00
Deferred Revenue	<u><u>\$16,874.50</u></u>

Other Information:

Direct Debit Accounts to Date	70
Online Billing Accounts to Date	16



Write-Offs August 2008

Reason Dropped: Budget Restrictions
--

<u>Name</u>	<u>Join Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Blanton's Garage	12/1/1995	\$62.50
Eisenhower Painting	10/10/2007	\$60.00
Hahira Merle Norman Studio	8/22/2007	\$240.00
Home 2 Child Care	9/28/2006	\$0.00
Sing Bros., Inc.	1/1/1957	\$320.00
State Farm Insurance-Brian Sumner	5/4/2004	\$225.00
The Georgia Pasty Company	5/21/2007	\$240.00



Write-Offs August 2008

Reason Dropped: Business Sold

<u>Name</u>	<u>Join Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Magnolia Pest Management	7/28/2005	\$240.00
William B. Thomas, DDS	9/1/1974	\$0.00

Reason Dropped: Members Moved

<u>Name</u>	<u>Join Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Dependable Painting Contractors	5/29/2007	\$395.60
Valdosta State University- Langdale College of Business	6/4/2005	\$85.00

Reason Dropped: Non-Payment of Dues

<u>Name</u>	<u>Join Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
FranChoice	9/29/2004	\$240.00
Jim's Auto Glass	5/11/2000	\$240.00



Write-Offs August 2008

Reason Dropped: Out of Business

<u>Name</u>	<u>Join Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A V Media Source	8/31/2007	\$100.00
Beacon Hill Financial, LLC	9/16/2008	\$240.00
Dixon Electric & Controls, Inc.	9/30/2005	\$240.00
Enterprise, PHASE II	2/22/2008	\$71.43
Freedom Tax, Inc.	2/29/2008	\$100.00
GrayLink Wireless	3/1/1991	\$0.00
Kids Carousel	9/19/2007	\$60.00
New York Life-Justin B. Stubbs	4/7/2008	\$56.25
S and S Cleaning Service	6/30/2007	\$240.00
Simply Elegant Rental & Party Supplies	9/4/2007	\$60.00
Trendsettaz	6/30/2007	\$200.00
Valdosta Home Portal	10/12/2006	\$400.00
Willis Air Service, LLC	3/29/2007	\$240.00

Reason Dropped: Requested Cancellation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Join Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Classy Bags & Gift Shoppe	2/28/2005	\$250.00
Memorial Hospital of Adel	7/18/2007	\$350.00
South Georgia Purchasing Alliance, Inc.	9/24/2001	\$85.00



Write-Offs August 2008 Summary

Summary

**Month
#**

Month \$

**YTD
#**

YTD \$

Budget Restrictions	7	\$1,147.50	11	\$1,577.50
Business Sold	2	\$240.00	5	\$910.00
Member Moved	2	\$480.60	6	\$975.60
Nonpayment of Dues	2	\$480.00	31	\$9,441.70
Out of Business	13	\$2,007.68	41	\$5,576.18
Requested Cancellation- No Reason	3	\$685.00	28	\$4,074.18

TOTAL

29

\$5,040.78

122

\$22,555.16

Write-Offs 2007

47

\$8,241.10

180

\$34,411.27



CHAMBER 101:

How to get the most out of your
Chamber membership

2008 Attendance Sheet

Month	1 st Invitation	2 nd Invitation	Attended
Jan. 9	14	27	8
Feb. 6	11	75	8
Mar. 5	19	56	9
Apr. 2	12	45	7
May 7	21	37	12
June 4	10	34	7
July 9	22	44	8
Aug. 6	19	54	6
Sept. 3	16	52	3
Oct. 1			
Nov. 5			
Dec. 3			
TOTAL	144	424	68

July 9, 2008 invitation list for CHAMBER 101
consists of members that joined from
Dec. 16, 2007 – May 15, 2008 (2nd time invites) &
May 16 - June 15, 2008 (1st time invites)



CHAMBER 101:

**How to get the most out of your
Chamber membership**

Board Members:

Please join us for an informative CHAMBER 101. Come and help Myrna and staff welcome our new members to the Best Chamber in Georgia.

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Chamber of Commerce

For more information call 247-8100

I would like to attend:

The **CHAMBER 101** is designed for the new members to meet the Chamber staff as well as the Board of Directors and to give new members the opportunity to learn more about what the Chamber has to offer their business.

Board Member are asked to attend at
least three (3) **CHAMBER 101** events:

The following have attended:

David Newbern (8)

Walter Hobgood (7)

Allan Dear (1)

Jeff Hanson (1)

Debra Tann (2)

Jerome Riley (1)

Terri Lupo(2)

MARKETING REPORT—AUGUST 2008

YEAR TO DATE

Television Stories: **30** (27 in 2007)
Radio Presentations: **67** (31 in 2007)
Print Articles: **41** (47 in 2007)
Presentations: **16** (14 in 2007)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

PRESENTATION Business Class
SEEDS Center Presentation to VSU RADIO

BUSINESS EXPANSION DIVISION

<u>RADIO</u>	<u>PRINT</u>	<u>TV</u>
SGPRD—Newstalk	SGPRD—VDT	SGPRD—WALB
SGPRD—Kix 99.5		
MetroOne—Talk 92.1		
SGPRD—Black Crow News		

MEMBER SERVICES DIVISION

RADIO
Ambassadors—Talk 92.1

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION DIVISION

<u>RADIO</u>	<u>PRINT</u>
WCER Winners—Talk 92.1	WCER—VDT (2)
	Literacy Fair—VDT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION

<u>TELEVISION</u>	<u>RADIO</u>
Commissioner Oxendine—WALB	Tax Free Holiday—Newstalk
Commissioner Oxendine—WCTV	

MISCELLANEOUS

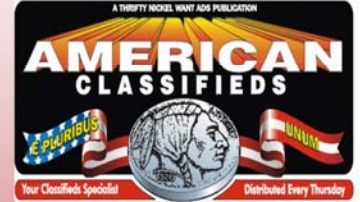
<u>TELEVISION</u>	(Interview) - WCTV	<u>RADIO</u>
IMPACT 2012 Update— WALB	<u>PRINT</u> 5 Star Accreditation—VDT	IMPACT 2012 Update—Talk 92.1
Job Loss in Valdosta		

THE
VALDOSTA
DAILY
TIMES



VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
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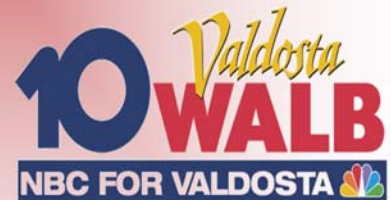


2008

Media



Sponsors



AMBASSADOR REPORT—AUGUST 2008

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Verizon Wireless
1602 Norman Drive
Phone: (229) 333-9830



Mac's Automotive Service
206 1/2 E. Gordon Street
Phone: (229) 244-9958



Roger's Construction & Down Home Pools
12161 Highway 84 East (Quitman)
(229) 263-5910



Shipping Unlimited
2904-G Patterson Street
Phone: (229) 244-5833



Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q
1701 Norman Drive
Phone: (229) 241-8090

AMBASSADOR REPORT—AUGUST 2008

AUGUST RIBBON CUTTING STATISTICS

Ribbon Cuttings for August: **5**
Groundbreakings for August: **0**
Business After Hours for August: **1**
Early Bird Breakfasts for August: **1**

2008 RIBBON CUTTING STATISTICS

2008 Ribbon Cuttings: **65 (62 through August 07)**
2008 Groundbreakings: **4 (1 through August 07)**
2008 Business After Hours: **4 (4 through August 07)**
2008 Early Bird Breakfasts: **3 (3 through August 07)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 25—5 Star Celebration

5:00—7:00 PM

@ the Home of Sue and Stanley Cox, behind Covington's

September 26—Moody Appreciation Fun Fair

10:00—2:00 PM

Moody Air Force Base

October 9—Business After Hours, @ Eye Associates of South GA.,
L.L.C.

5:00—7:00 PM

3024 N. Patterson Street

October 30—Business <2> Business Showcase, Sponsored by
Verizon Wireless

5:00—8:00 PM

James H. Rainwater Conference Center

The
Existing Industry Committee
Invites You
On A Tour of



Where Great Floors Begin

**SHAW
INDUSTRIES**

**Tuesday, October 14, 2008
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

For More Information, Contact
Katie Boles, 229.247.8100
kboles@valdostachamber.com

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Best Practices To Improve Your Employee Retention

**A PANEL OF HUMAN RESOURCES EXPERTS
WILL DISCUSS HOW THEY HAVE IMPROVED
EMPLOYEE RETENTION.**

When: October 15, 2008 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Where: To Be Announced

Cost: \$10.00 ~ will include box lunch

**Who: Plant Managers, Business Owners, Human
Resources Managers**



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Contact Katie Boles at 22-247-8100 for more information

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President Report:

Myrna Ballard

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Chairman's Report:

Walter Hobgood

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Next Meeting Date:

**Thursday, October 16
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
@ Country Inn & Suites**

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Meeting Adjourned