

CORDELE-CRISP

Chamber of Commerce

2010 Annual Report

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2011 Program of Action

Mission Statement:

“The mission of the Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce is to support, maintain, and promote members businesses and quality of life in our community.”

Sponsors

Platinum

Cook Industrial Electric
Cordele Metal Works
Helena Industries
Impact Sports & Fitness
South Georgia Technical College

Gold

Ameris Bank
Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club

Silver

Cordele Dispatch
Darton College
South Georgia News
WebSign Computers
WSST DT51

Keynote Speaker: Chris Clark

Georgia Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Chris Clark, a native of Fitzgerald, GA., earned his bachelor's degree from Georgia Southern University and received his master's in public administration from Georgia College and State University. He is an advisory board member for the University of Georgia's Board of Visitors and a member of the advisory board for the College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Southern University; is a graduate of Georgia's first executive leadership program; and served as president of the Georgia Economic Developers Association in 2009. He served previously as Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and prior to that was executive director of the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority. He also served as deputy commissioner for global commerce at the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

He, his wife Tiffany and son Christian reside near Peachtree City in Fayette County.

62nd Annual Meeting and Dinner Agenda

Call to Order.....Phil Berryman
 Invocation.....Rev. Ray Burnette
 Pledge.....Eli Tinsley
 National Anthem.....Jill Gibbs

DINNER

Dinner Music.....Jill Gibbs & Starlites
 Introduction of Speaker.....Ed Vaughn
 Keynote Speaker.....Chris Clark
 Outgoing Chairman's Remarks.....Phil Berryman
 Recognition of Retiring Directors.....Phil Berryman
 Exceedingly Excellent Teacher Presentation.....Bridget Milani
 Ambassador of the Year.....Jessica Carter
 Volunteer of the Year.....Richard Grogg
 Presentation of 2011 Directors/Officers.....Ed Vaughn
 Incoming Chairman's Remarks.....Ed Vaughn
 Thanks and Adjournment.....Ed Vaughn

Special thanks to the following for their contribution to the success of the Annual Dinner Meeting and Report.

*Adkins Studio of Photography
 Ambassador Corp
 Crisp Area Arts Alliance
 The Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club
 Murray Printing Company*

2011 Officers & Directors Executive Committee

Chairman.....Ed Vaughn
 South Georgia Banking Company
 Chairman Elect.....Eli Tinsley
 PlantersFirst
 Vice-Chairman-Organizational Improvement.....Richard Grogg
 Sunbelt Ford
 Vice-Chairman-Economical Development.....Jamie Fernandez
 Impact Sports & Fitness
 Vice-Chairman-Community Development.....Bridget Milani
 Therapy Resource Network, Inc.
 Vice-Chairman-Public Affairs.....Jerry Carney
 Vice-Chairman-Tourism.....John Donohue
 Hampton Inn
 Treasurer.....Jessica Carter
 Crisp Regional Health Services
 Immediate Past Chairman.....Phil Berryman
 Helena Industries
 City Commission Representative.....A.J. Rivers
 County Commission Representative.....Clark Henderson
 Crisp County Power Commission RepresentativeRusty Slade
 PlantersFirst
 Agricultural-Industrial Development Representative.....Bob Evans
 Colony Bank

Board of Directors

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Cleveland Lemmons <i>West Central Georgia</i> | Don Cole <i>RTT Associates</i> | Briley Edwards <i>Ameris Bank</i> |
| Ron Cruz <i>Pridgen Brothers</i> | Sandra Bowen <i>LBO's BBQ & Classic Catering</i> | Mitchell Gibbs <i>Rainwater & Gibbs</i> |
| Bob Johnson <i>Lake Blackshear Resort</i> | Charles Kerr <i>Wal-Mart</i> | Sonny Mehta <i>Days Inn</i> |
| Mary Beal <i>MLB Consultants</i> | Jonathan Lafevers <i>Cordele Inland Services</i> | Daniel Rumsey <i>Rumsey & Huckaby</i> |
| | Susan Leger-Boike <i>Cordele Housing Authority</i> | Kyle Pless |

Retiring Directors: Renee Fraser, Cary Purvis, Greg Turton, Noel Williams, Jr.

Ex-Officio

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| City of Cordele..... | Jeff Johnson |
| Cordele/Crisp Industrial Development Council..... | Bruce Drennan |
| Cordele Main Street/Downtown Business Organization... | Monica Mitchell |
| Crisp Academy..... | Kip Stephens |
| Crisp County Commission..... | Gene Crapse |
| Crisp County Extension..... | Tucker Price |
| Crisp County Power Commission..... | Steve Rentfrow |
| Crisp Regional Health Services..... | Steve Gautney |
| Darton College-Crisp County Center..... | Caroline Fielding |
| Farm Bureau President..... | Don Williford |
| Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park..... | Randell Meeks |
| Mayor of Arabi..... | Alan Douglas |
| School Superintendent..... | Jay Brinson |
| South Georgia Technical College-Crisp Co. Center..... | John Watford |
| Southwest Georgia United | Robert Cooke |
| State Senator District 13..... | Dickie Crosby |
| State Representative-District 147..... | Buddy Harden |

Chamber Staff:

Monica Simmons, President

Gail Reynolds, Administrative Assistant

Catherine Mays, Keep Crisp Beautiful/Small Business Dev. Director



CORDELE-CRISP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROGRAM OF WORK 2010

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

Jessica Carter, Vice Chair

GOAL: To identify and act upon issues and activities that enhances the function and effectiveness of the Chamber through reaching out to the grassroots community of Crisp County

- Chamber member participation increased by 20%
- SGT developed the curriculum for Chamber 101
- Utilizing interns and students from local schools
- Chamber board more active in interacting with members and prospective members
- Encouraged members to have an e-mail address and web site
- Held 2 ground breakings and 23 ribbon cuttings
- Sponsored 2 after hour events
- Sponsored Annual Dinner and Professional Admin Day luncheon
- Sponsored STAR Students/Teachers luncheon with local civic clubs
- Past Chamber Chairman's organized to become more active
- Ambassador Corp continued to assist and support the board

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Bridget Milani, Vice-Chair

GOAL: To generate positive networking, awareness and outreach to sustain a level of excellence in all of our community.

- Completed Master Plan for Crisp County Higher Education Center
- Presented CCHE conceptual to chamber board, civic clubs, Crisp Co Power Commission
- Supported plan to secure funding for the Crisp County Higher Education Center
- Continued support of Keep Crisp Beautiful, Sponsored Great American Clean Up, Clothes Recycling, electronic/ink cartridge recycling, Rivers Alive, Liter Index, & received Cigarette Butt Grant
- Increased visibility of Cordele-Crisp County
- Supported South Georgia Technical College, Darton College, Crisp County School System and Crisp Academy for a better-educated community
- Supported agricultural community by sponsoring appreciation dinner and the 61st Annual Watermelon Days Festival
- Sponsored the 2010-11 Leadership Class with 25 participants
- Sponsored Red Cross Blood Drive and promoted other Red Cross events
- Co-sponsored Job Fair at Crisp County High School

- Assisted Cordele Main Street with Heart & Soul Tour
- Implemented New Comer Welcome program, delivering 25 baskets
- Coordinated Community of Character program
- Organized program to utilize retirees to volunteer with chamber
- Promoted and coordinated Census event, with a return rate of 72%

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Richard Grogg, Vice-Chairman

GOAL – To generate positive networking, awareness and outreach to sustain a level of excellence in our community

- Assisted Cordele/Crisp Industrial Development Council, Industrial Development Authority, Downtown Development Authority and Downtown Business Organization/Main Street on downtown projects and development
- Supported Foreign Trade Designation and inter-model center
- Supported extension of Empowerment Zone Tax Credits
- Provided technical assistance to 53 new and existing businesses
- Supported funding for transportation and other infrastructure
- Assisted IDC with ground breaking for Cordele Inland Services
- Attended manufacturers luncheon where Helena Industries was recognized
- Promoted Shop Cordele/Shop Local which supports our members and the community

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Eli Tinsley, Vice-Chairman

GOAL – To interact with appropriate levels of government and the private sector to accomplish goals of the Chamber and Community

- Tracked and disseminated information on legislation that had specific impact on Cordele-Crisp County
- SGT designed and presented program (specifically for Atlanta Fish Fry volunteers) on how to present local issues to officials in Atlanta
- Contacted Legislators and other State Officials throughout the year
- Sponsored Legislative Fish Fry, and held local Legislative event
- Attended Eggs & Issues Breakfast
- Community leaders participated in the GACCE Washington Fly-In to promote our community's needs to our congressional delegation and USDA
- Sponsored Political Forum prior to the general election

TOURISM DIVISION Greg Turton, Vice-Chairman

GOAL – To develop tourism products, expand the visitor base and enhance the visitor experience by combing local business, government and private resources.

- Supported Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park, S.A.M. Shortline Excursion Train and the Thomas and Friends event (18,000)
- Continued with the clean-up of the 280 Corridor
- Implemented new tourism logo on all billboards and other advertising
- Sponsored triathlon/duathlon event and assisted and supported the Crisp Co. Recreation Department with tournaments
- Supported “Go Fish” project
- Assisted Exit 101 Movie producer/director in coordinating locations, props and actors
- Coordinated sail plane (46 participants) competition tournament and fish fry
- Coordinated refreshments for the railroad motor cars
- Provided 12,500 informational & goody bags to visitors
- Coordinated Fireworks with over 20,000 in attendance
- Supported 2% increase of local hotel/motel tax



**CORDELE-CRISP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PROGRAM OF WORK 2011**

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

Richard Grogg, Vice Chairman

GOAL: To identify and act upon issues and activities that enhances the function and effectiveness of the Chamber through reaching out to the grassroots community of Crisp County

- Sponsor STAR Students/Teachers program
- Increase membership (membership drive) and participation of members 15%
- Sponsor Past Chamber Chairmen's Club
- Utilize Chamber 101 program to educate new members
- Increase support of chamber members businesses & member retention by 10%
- Sponsor Young Professionals group
- Sponsor Annual Dinner and Meeting
- Sponsor Professional Administrative Day Luncheon
- Complete renovation of chamber facility

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Bridget Milani, Vice Chair

GOAL: To generate positive networking, awareness and outreach to sustain a level of excellence in all of our community.

- Continue to support Crisp County Higher Education Center
- Continue support of Keep Crisp Beautiful for a cleaner community
- Increase visibility of Cordele-Crisp County
- Support South Georgia Technical College, Darton College, Crisp County School System and Crisp Academy for a better-educated community; with a focus on mentoring and increasing the high school graduation rate. Develop Speaker's Bureau for school system (including local business managers and owners)
- Support agricultural community by sponsoring Farmer's Appreciation Dinner and the 62nd Annual Watermelon Days Festival
- Sponsor Red Cross Blood Drive and support the Get "RED" for Red Cross project
- Co-sponsor Job Fair at Crisp County High School
- Continue to provide New Comer Welcome Baskets
- Recruit retirees to volunteer with chamber and other organizations
- Support Gillespie-Selden redevelopment plan
- Support South Georgia Technical College Truck Driving Program

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
*Jamie Fernandez, Vice Chairman***

GOAL – To generate positive networking, awareness and outreach to sustain a level of excellence in our community

- Support and assist Cordele/Crisp Industrial Development Council, Industrial Development Authority, Downtown Development Authority and Downtown Business Organization/Main Street on downtown projects and development
- Support Inter-model Center and Foreign Trade Designation
- Support extension of Empowerment Zone Tax Credits
- Provide technical assistance to new and existing businesses
- Promote "Shop Cordele Shop Local" campaign
- Support funding for transportation and other infrastructure needs
- Support existing industries as needed and attend manufacturers luncheon
- Review and update "How to Start a Business - Steps to New Business"
- Implement Wellness Committee
- Recruit and support small business and entrepreneurs to our community
- Promote Small Business Resource Center located inside the chamber office

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jerry Carney, Vice Chairman

GOAL – To interact with appropriate levels of government and the private sector to accomplish goals of the Chamber and Community

- Track legislation that has specific impact on Cordele-Crisp County
- Support and promote Special Purpose Local Option tax renewal
- Support and promote Education SPLOST tax renewal
- Continue Atlanta Fish Fry attendees training program
- Continue to build relationships with Legislators and other State Officials
- Sponsor Legislative Fish Fry
- Sponsor Legislative update event with state and federal representatives
- Support Eggs & Issues Breakfast for legislative updates
- Participate in GACCE Washington Fly-In to promote our needs to congressional delegation
- Sponsor Public Safety Appreciation Dinner
- Sponsor "Get Out and Vote" campaign

TOURISM DIVISION
John Donohue, Vice Chairman

Past Board Chairmen of the
Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce

GOAL – To develop tourism products, expand the visitor base and enhance the visitor experience by combing local business, government and private resources.

- Support Georgia Veterans State Park and S.A.M. Shortline
- Continue the clean-up of the 280 Corridor and entire community
- Continue to enhance tourism billboards
- Sponsor triathlon and provide assistance to CCRD
- Promote “Go Fish” mega ramp
- Provide information & goody bags to visitors
- Support Day Out With Thomas
- Participate in the Sunbelt Expo, Georgia National Fair, Military and other travel shows to attract visitors
- Research providing “Wi-Fi” for tourist
- Support “Camera-ready Community” Program

KEEP CRISP BEAUTIFUL

Keep Crisp Beautiful had another great year in 2010, thanks to all of our volunteers. In 2010, Keep Crisp Beautiful had approximately 800 volunteers for our more than 30 events! Because of all the hard work put in by our volunteers and board members Keep Crisp Beautiful once again received the “Presidents Circle Award” from Keep America Beautiful. KCB’s 2010 annual litter index was 1.53. The goal in 2011 is to decrease that to 1.20.

2010 activities began with Bring One for the Chipper, in which 10 volunteers collected 60 trees. We planted 5 trees for Arbor Day. 400 kids learned about the effects of trash and ways to recycle. Keep Crisp Beautiful united with 4-H & Cordele Main Street for the Great American Litter Clean-up in March. Fifty kids and thirty adults attended the kickoff event and cleaned the downtown area collecting 100 bags of trash. The Spring Clothes collection yielded 215 pounds of clothing. KCB held an Adopt-A-Highway drive that resulted in 20 miles of our highways being adopted by Crisp County businesses and organizations. Rivers Alive collected 2,788 pounds of garbage from Crisp County waterways with 83 volunteers. Fall Clothes Collection resulted in the collection of 600 pounds of clothes! A Recycling Fair was held with opportunities to recycle clothes, household materials, paper, shrink wrap, cardboard, ink jet cartridges, books, household items, furniture and newspaper.

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who participated with Keep Crisp Beautiful in 2010. Because of your hard work and commitment, the quality of life in Crisp County continues to improve.

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| 1950.....Spencer Worthy | 1982.....Robert L. Evans |
| 1951.....Spencer Worthy | 1983.....Charles F. Rumsey |
| 1951.....Leland Ferguson | 1984.....Susan N Barge |
| 1952.....Leland Ferguson | 1985.....Guy D. Pfeiffer |
| 1953.....W.R. Turner | 1986.....W.E. Shannon, Jr. |
| 1954-55.....Jake B. Roobin | 1987.....Michael G. Mixon |
| 1956.....H.M. Turton, Sr. | 1988.....Robert L. Evans |
| 1957.....Ben Turner | 1989.....Bobby Shepard |
| 1958-60.....E.W. Mathews | 1990.....Ronnie Fuller |
| 1961.....Charles Denning | 1991.....Jeffery W. Johnson |
| 1962.....H.M. Turton, Sr. | 1992.....David N. Rainwater |
| 1963.....W.R. Forrester | 1993.....Jerry Crumley |
| 1964.....E.W. Mathews | 1994.....Jack Hamilton, Jr. |
| 1965.....Robert Fleeman | 1995.....Jan K. Odom |
| 1966.....Charles Denning | 1996.....W. Cole Woodroof |
| 1967.....W.E. Pitts | 1997.....Angie S. Ellis |
| 1968.....Carter McKinney | 1998.....Randy Cox |
| 1969-70.....B.I. Thornton | 1999.....Ricky Smith |
| 1971.....Robert Fleeman | 2000.....Randy Yawn |
| 1972-73.....Ralph West | 2001.....Troy Pullin |
| 1974.....W.E. Pitts | 2002.....Gene Ford |
| 1975.....C.B. Wilson, Jr. | 2003.....Susan Leger-Boike |
| 1976.....Robert Fleeman | 2004.....Paul Mechler |
| 1977.....Aubrey Alford | 2005.....Phil Streetman |
| 1978.....Ralph West | 2006.....Joe Cook |
| 1979.....Carol Anne Moore | 2007.....Larry Bullock |
| 1980.....Harry Hurt | 2008.....Noel Williams, Jr. |
| 1981.....Jerry Johnson | 2009.....William J. Cannon |
| | 2010.....Phil Berryman |