

CORDELE-CRISP

Chamber of Commerce

2012 Annual Report



2013 Program of Action

Mission Statement:

“The Mission of the Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce is to advance the economic, industrial, professional, cultural, and civic welfare of Cordele-Crisp County.”

2013 Officers & Directors Executive Committee

- Chairman.....Richard Grogg
Sunbelt Ford
- Chairman Elect..... Bridget Milani
Southwest Georgia Rehab
- Vice-Chairman-Organizational Improvement.....Ron Cruz
Pridgen Brothers
- Vice-Chairman-Economic Development & CCPC Rep.....Rusty Slade
PlantersFirst Bank
- Vice-Chairman-Community Development.....Kimberly Reid
Lawson & Reid, LLC
- Vice-Chairman-Public Affairs.....Jerry Carney
- Vice-Chairman-Tourism.....Angie Ellis
PlantersFirst Bank
- Treasurer.....Briley Edwards
Ameris Bank
- Immediate Past Chairman.....Eli Tinelsy
PlantersFirst Bank
- City Commission Representative.....A.J. Rivers
- County Commission Representative.....Larry Felton
- Agricultural-Industrial Development Representative.....Bob Evans
Colony Bank

Board of Directors

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Hal Carter Jr.
<i>Ag Georgia Farm Credit</i> | Sonny Mehta
<i>Days Inn</i> | Mitchell Gibbs
<i>Rainwater & Gibbs, LLC</i> |
| Willie Patrick
<i>South Georgia News</i> | Ed Vaughn
<i>South Ga. Banking Co.</i> | Meredith Lafevers
<i>Cordele Inland Services</i> |
| Cheryl Bolden
<i>Belk</i> | Mac Cook
<i>Cook Industrial Electric</i> | C.J. Griffin
<i>Cordele Sash</i> |
| Kamerio Riggins
<i>Verizon</i> | Jamie Fernandez
<i>Impact Sports & Fitness</i> | Brad Westenfeld
<i>Harvey's</i> |
| Jeff Whelchel
<i>Edward Jones Investments</i> | Jessica Carter
<i>Crisp Regional Health Services</i> | |

Retiring Directors: Susan Leger-Boike, Sandra Bowen, Billy Hancock, Cleveland Lemmons, Josh Pitts

Ex-Officio

City of Cordele.....	Edward Beach
Cordele/Crisp Industrial Development Council.....	Bruce Drennan
Cordele Main Street.....	Monica Mitchell
Crisp Academy.....	Kip Stephens
Crisp County Commission.....	Tom Patton
Crisp County Extension.....	Justin Lanier
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.....	Craig Huckaby
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



CORDELE-CRISP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2012 Accomplishments

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT *Ron Cruz, 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.

- Began to Develop Branding/Marketing Plan for community
- Began reworking chamber web site and developing landing page for the community

- Promoted Chamber 101 during the Atlanta Fish Fry training session
- Sponsored three (3) Young Professionals Network events
- Sponsored Annual Dinner
- Sponsored Professional Administrative Luncheon
- Coordinated 12 Ribbon Cuttings and 2 Ground Breakings for member businesses
- Sponsored 4 seminars to assist member businesses
- Sponsored STAR Students/Teachers recognition program
- Participated and helped sponsor Chic Fil A Leadercast Conference

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.

- Supported Darton College – Crisp County Center
- Supported Keep Crisp Beautiful for a cleaner community
- Continued “New Comers” program, providing 20 baskets.
- Supported South Georgia Technical College, Darton College, Crisp County School System and Crisp Academy for a better educated community
- Supported agricultural community by sponsoring farmer’s appreciation dinner and the 63rd Annual Watermelon Days Festival
- Supported Red Cross Blood Drive by sponsoring a drive & supported Southeastern Blood Services
- Coordinated Character program for the community
- Recruited retirees to volunteer with chamber and other organizations
- Supported Gillespie- Selden redevelopment plan
- Supported United Way, Crisp Area Arts Alliance, Teen Maze, Red Cross, Crisp Co. 4-H, Boy Scout Citizen of the Year Dinner and other clubs and organizations in the community

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Jamie Fernandez, Vice-Chairman

Goal- To generate positive networking, awareness and outreach to sustain a level of excellence in our community.

- Supported Foreign Trade Designation and Cordele Intermodal Services
- Supported extension of Empowerment Zone Tax Credits by contacting our legislators
- Supported transportation and other infrastructure needs
- Promoted “same” community strategic mission for city, county and chamber
- Supported Cordele-Crisp Industrial Development Council, Industrial Development Authority, Downtown Development Authority, United Industrial Development Council and Cordele Main Street
- Provided technical assistance to 47 prospects, new and existing businesses
- Promoted “Shop Cordele First” campaign year-round
- Supported existing industries and the manufacturers luncheon in Atlanta
- Sponsored and participated in Georgia Quail Hunt
- Developed and implemented plan to utilize Work Ready Phase II Grant
- Coordinated 2 contractors meetings

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.

- Facilitated quarterly meetings with all government agencies to discuss common goals and growth opportunities
- Continued to promote SPLOST and ESPLOST by updating community
- Sponsored Atlanta Fish Fry and continue training program for attendees
- Recognized Public Safety and other agencies that make important community quality of life contributions
- Updated local, state and federal officials throughout year

- Tracked legislation that had specific impact on Cordele-Crisp County
- Educated public on Transportation SPLOST referendum
- Sponsored Legislative update event with local, state and federal representatives
- Coordinated Soldiers’ Angel Project, making up and delivering 2,193 boxes for soldiers in Ft. Benning and those deployed from Ft. Benning
- Promoted “Get Out & Vote” and Political Forum

TOURISM DIVISION
Angie Ellis, 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 and SAM Shortline Excursion Train (including Day Out With Thomas), providing funding and volunteers
- Supported Gateway improvements community-wide
- Continued to enhance and expand billboard project
- Sponsored triathlon and other events to bring visitors into the community
- Sponsored several ball tournaments and the Cordele Senior Golf Tournament
- Promoted Go Fish mega ramp and fishing tournaments (Slab Masters, Youth Ga. Bass Federation, Fishing for the Hungry)
- Coordinated events for sail planes, railroad motor cars, State District Attorney’s, and Watermelon Capital Speedway
- Provided community information to 15,080 visitors
- Coordinated and sponsored Fireworks on the Flint with over 17,000 in attendance
- Participated in the Sunbelt Expo, Georgia National Fair, Military and other shows to attract visitors
- Supported efforts to improve cleanliness of the community
- Supported Cordele becoming a “Quiet Community”

**CORDELE-CRISP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PROGRAM OF WORK 2013**

**ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT
Ron Cruz, Vice Chairman**

Goal- To support and grow the chamber through activities that enhance and promote chamber membership.

- Complete Georgia Chamber Accreditation
- Expand social media program
- Implement Richard's 12 @ 12
- Hold Membership Drive and increase renewals
- Increase attendance at ribbon cuttings and other chamber sponsored events
- Continue Young Professionals Networking and offer other networking opportunities
- Expand non-dues revenues sources (Collette Tours)
- Participate in the Georgia Chamber Small Business Alliance program
- Continue to sponsor STAR Student/Teacher Program, Annual Dinner, Professional Administrative Day Luncheon

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Kimberly Reid, Vice Chair**

Goal- To generate positive awareness and outreach to sustain excellence in our community.

- Support the Darton-Crisp County Center
- Support Keep Crisp Beautiful for a cleaner community
- Continue to promote a more cohesive community
- Continue and enhance "New Comers" program
- Support Crisp County School System, Crisp Academy, South Georgia Technical College, and Darton College
- Explore a business mentoring program with the local schools
- Support agricultural community through events
- Recruit volunteers for chambers

- Publish annual volunteer opportunities for chamber events
- Sponsor Leadership Crisp Class 2013-14
- Support Gillespie-Selden area redevelopment plan
- Support local civic and community organizations

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Rusty Slade, Vice Chairman**

Goal- To advance industrial, commercial, agricultural and retail business development.

- Promote "same" community strategic mission for city, county, chamber, hospital, schools, power commission, industrial development council and industrial development authority
- Support Foreign Trade Designation and Cordele Intermodal Services
- Support Southwest Georgia United
- Support transportation and other infrastructure needs
- Promote "Shop Cordele-Crisp County First" campaign year-round
- Assist local contractors in bidding on large construction contracts
- Sponsor Georgia Quail Hunt
- Support and promote workforce development
- Support "user-friendly" new business and existing business enhancements

**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.

- Facilitate quarterly meetings with all government agencies to discuss common goals and growth opportunities
- Promote "Get Out & Vote"
- Sponsor Atlanta Legislative Fish Fry and training program
- Recognize Public Safety personnel

- Update government officials and update events
- Track legislation that has specific impact on our community with city and county leaders, throughout legislative session
- Participate in GACCE Washington Fly-In
- Promote Lake Blackshear and Lake Blackshear Resort through interaction with North Ga. Mountain Authority, Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources and Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park for “joint use” of facilities
- Promote and support our local military

TOURISM DIVISION
Angie Ellis, Vice Chairman

Goal- To expand and enhance our visitor base.

- Complete 1-75 Gateway Project
- Expand Gateway projects community-wide
- Complete steps toward becoming a “Quiet Community”
- Develop Tourism web page
- Expand and enhance billboard project
- Coordinate and sponsor events that expand and enhance our visitor base
- Participate in co-op ventures for fairs and shows to expand our visitor base
- Prepare for national events that expand visitor base
- Expand and enhance events at farmers market



Ambassador Corp 2012-13

Jennifer Averill	Akin Insurance Agency
Ann Leger	Albany Tractor Company
Ricky Hughes	Ambassador Personnel
Stephanie Stephens	Ameris Bank
Marlene Kimball	Century 21 Smith, Branch & Pope
Rebecca Coker	Colony Bank
Amber Herrington	Colony Bank
Brittany Leggett	Cook Industrial Electric
Monica Mitchell	Cordele Main Street
Dana Raines	Crisp Regional–Wellness Program
Rose Bridges	District Attorney’s Office
Renee Bodrey	Harris Waste Management Group
Shellie King	Harris Waste Management Group
Wendy LeMasters	PlantersFirst Bank
Brad Christian	South Georgia Banking Company
Catherine Whiddon	Whiddon Agency & Crop Ins.



Committees:

Agri
 Agri Industrial Development
 Ambassador
 Annual Dinner
 Atlanta Legislative Fish Fry
 Education
 Higher Education
 Keep Crisp Beautiful
 Leadership Crisp
 New Comers
 Public Safety Dinner
 Red Ribbon
 Tourism
 Watermelon Days
 Young Professionals Network

**Past Board Chairmen of the
Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce**

1950.....	Spencer Worthy	1984.....	Susan N Barge
1951.....	Spencer Worthy	1985.....	Guy D. Pfeiffer
1951.....	Leland Ferguson	1986.....	W.E. Shannon, Jr.
1952.....	Leland Ferguson	1987.....	Michael G. Mixon
1953.....	W.R. Turner	1988.....	Robert L. Evans
1954-55.....	Jake B. Roobin	1989.....	Bobby Shepard
1956.....	H.M. Turton, Sr.	1990.....	Ronnie Fuller
1957.....	Ben Turner	1991.....	Jeffery W. Johnson
1958-60.....	E.W. Mathews	1992.....	David N. Rainwater
1961.....	Charles Denning	1993.....	Jerry Crumley
1962.....	H.M. Turton, Sr.	1994.....	Jack Hamilton, Jr.
1963.....	W.R. Forrester	1995.....	Jan K. Odom
1964.....	E.W. Mathews	1996.....	W. Cole Woodroof
1965.....	Robert Fleeman	1997.....	Angie S. Ellis
1966.....	Charles Denning	1998.....	Randy Cox
1967.....	W.E. Pitts	1999.....	Ricky Smith
1968.....	Carter McKinney	2000.....	Randy Yawn
1969-70.....	B.I. Thornton	2001.....	Troy Pullin
1971.....	Robert Fleeman	2002.....	Gene Ford
1972-73.....	Ralph West	2003.....	Susan Leger-Boike
1974.....	W.E. Pitts	2004.....	Paul Mechler
1975.....	C.B. Wilson, Jr.	2005.....	Phil Streetman
1976.....	Robert Fleeman	2006.....	Joe Cook
1977.....	Aubrey Alford	2007.....	Larry Bullock
1978.....	Ralph West	2008.....	Noel Williams, Jr.
1979.....	Carol Anne Moore	2009.....	William J. Cannon
1980.....	Harry Hurt	2010.....	Phil Berryman
1981.....	Jerry Johnson	2011.....	Ed Vaughn
1982.....	Robert L. Evans	2012.....	Eli Tinsley
1983.....	Charles F. Rumsey		