

CORDELE · CRISP

Your Gateway to Southwest Georgia

2014 Annual Report

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2015 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.”

Annual Dinner Sponsors

Special thanks to the following for helping sponsor the Annual Dinner & Meeting.
We appreciate your support!

Platinum

Ameris Bank
City of Cordele
Cordele Metal Works
Impact Sports & Fitness
South Georgia Technical College
Woodard Nursery

Gold

Marvair

Silver

Colony Bank
Cordele Dispatch
Cordelia Manor
Pepsi Cola Bottling Company
WSST-DT51

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

Ambassador Corp
Renay Adkins Studio of Photography
The Lake Blackshear Resort
All Auction Donors

2015 Officers & Directors

Executive Committee

Chairman

Briley Edwards – Ameris Bank

Chair Elect

Ron Cruz – Pridgen Brothers

Organizational Improvement Vice-Chair

Amber Herrington – Colony Bank

Community Development Vice-Chair

Patti Deal – PlantersFirst Bank

Economic Development Vice-Chair

Anna Hurt – Crimson & Clover Boutique

Public Affairs Vice-Chair

Kimberly Reid– Lawson & Reid, LLC

Tourism Division Vice-Chair

Anil Maniklal, Hampton Inn

Past Chair

Bridget Milani – Southwest Georgia Rehab

Treasurer & Crisp County Power Commission Rep

Rusty Slade – PlantersFirst Bank

Cordele City Commission Rep

A.J. Rivers

Crisp County Commission Rep

Wallace Mathis

Agri-Industrial Development Rep

Bob Evans – Colony Bank

Board of Directors

Bill Hulett Helena Chemical	Don Davis South Ga. Banking Co.	Brad Westenfeld Harvey's Supermarket
William Edwards Edwards & Associates	Heath Hamilton National Realty Co.	Matthew Mackey Access Corp
Mulford Roberson, Jr. Roberson Barber Shop	Brian Bickhaus Wells Hardware	Josh Pitts Ag Technologies
Katie McWilliams Cordele Intermodal	Meribeth McNeill Chick fil A	Jonathan Sinyard Adams Drug Store
Jeff Whelchel Edward Jones Investments	Richard Grogg Sunbelt Ford	C.J. Griffin Griffin Lumber & Hardware
Ben Wright Rainwater, Gibbs & Wright	Dustin Waldrip Hughes & Wright Funeral Home	

Retiring Directors:

Hal Carter, Jr., Jerry Carney, Brad Christian, Angie Ellis, Willie Patrick, Eli Tinsley

Ex-Officio

City of Cordele – Edward Beach

Cordele/Crisp IDC – Bruce Drennan

Cordele Main Street - Monica Mitchell

Crisp Academy – Kip Stephens

Crisp Co. Commission – Tom Patton

Crisp Co. Extension – Justin Lanier

Crisp Co. Power Com. – Steve Rentfrow

Crisp Regional Health Services - Steven Gautney

Darton College – Caroline Fielding

Farm Bureau – Don Williford

Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park– Bob Johnson

Mayor of Arabi – Craig Huckaby

School Superintendent – David Mims

South Georgia Technical College – John Watford

Southwest Ga. United – Robert Cooke

State Senator District 13 – Greg Kirk

State Representative District 147 – Buddy Harden

**Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce
Program of Work 2014**

*The chamber was able to accomplish the following during 2014.
Special thanks to all who chaired and served on committees to make this possible.*

**ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT
Ron Cruz, Vice Chair**

Goal: To support and grow the chamber through activities that enhances and promotes chamber membership.

- Expanded Social media platform
- Continued Young Professionals Networking and sponsored three events
- Continued to recruit new members
- Continued to focus on retention of current members
- Held 1st Annual Chamber Member Appreciation Train Ride
- Sponsored Annual Dinner, Professional Day Luncheon, and STAR Student/Teacher recognition
- Ambassador Corp continued to meet and sponsored two events
- Offered five webinars for the membership through the Georgia Chamber
- Improved attendance at Ribbon Cuttings by sending reminders through social media

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Kimberly Reid, Vice Chair**

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

- Partnered with CCHS to offer work-based mentoring/shadowing for students to highlight career opportunities in Crisp County
- Supported financial literacy for youth with Crisp Co. 4-H & Crisp County Middle School
- Continued support of Darton/Crisp Co. Higher Education Center & South Georgia Technical College
- Continued support of Keep Crisp Beautiful for a cleaner community and to enhance community pride
- Continued Newcomers program
- Continued support Ag Community (Farmers Appreciation Dinner, Watermelon Days Festival, Farmers Market)
- Developed a plan for increasing volunteers and distributed list of "Volunteer Opportunities"
- Graduated 32 from the Leadership Crisp 2013-14 class
- Continued to support Gillespie-Selden re-development plan
- Sponsored Red Ribbon Week activities

Pic #1

Pic #2

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ron Cruz, Vice Chair

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

- Promoted and supported local contractors preference and shop local preference
- Sponsored Georgia Quail Hunt
- Researched Groupon & Discount cards for members by members and feel there is not a need for this at the present time
- Supported Foreign Trade Designation, Inland Port Strategic Plan & Airport Industrial Park
- Supported infrastructure improvements with city, county and power commission
- Supported city and county comprehensive plan
- Supported TSPLOST and other local and state transportation improvement plans
- Assisted 17 businesses/individuals on how to start a business
- Sponsored Shop Small Saturday with Cordele Main Street

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jerry Carney, Vice Chair

Goal: To interact with appropriate levels of government and the private sector to accomplish goals of the chamber and community.

- Sponsored two political forums to educate voters
- Promoted Get Out & Vote
- Coordinated Atlanta Legislative Fish Fry
- Met with city and county on inter-governmental co-op to advance Chamber goals (one step contact)
- Promoted and enhanced utilization of Lake Blackshear & GA Veterans State Park by supporting their programs and projects
- Supported and promoted Farmers Market, as part of the 100 Mile Yard Sale, designed FB page for the market. Working on a beautification project with Boy Scouts, Crisp Co. 4-H, City & County and put a billboard on I-75
- Held three Quarterly CEO/Managers Meetings
- Sponsored the 22nd public safety appreciation dinner

Pic #3

Pic #4

TOURISM
Eli Tinsley, Vice Chair

Goal: To expand and enhance our visitor base.

- Continued support of the Gateway and Quiet Community projects
- Supported the Recreation Department in recruiting sporting events (State track meet, ball tournaments, horseshoe tournaments, etc)
- Supported and promoted Farmers Market (Billboards, DOT Signs, relocation)
- Exploring how to fund gateway project to include upgrading welcome signs at Hwy 41 and Hwy 280 entrance ways
- Co-sponsored Austin French in Concert at The Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club
- Sponsored Triathlon, Watermelon Days Festival, Sail Planes, Railroad Motor Cars, Golfing, and Fishing events
- Researching ways to draw more traffic to the chambers' and tourism web site
- Participated in Auto Rama Days at Atlanta Motor Speedway and the Best of Atlanta to promote our community
- Participated in the 100 Mile Peanut Pickin' Yard Sale
- Participated in the Georgia Grown Hwy 41 Trail
- Continued to support SAM Shortline, Touch A Train and Day Out With Thomas
- Sponsored Hospitality Training seminar in the spring

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PROGRAM OF WORK 2015

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

Amber Herrington, Vice Chair

Goal: To support and grow the chamber through activities that enhances and promotes chamber membership.

- Continue Social Media and Communication Platforms and add LinkedIN
- Continue to recruit and retain members and sponsor membership drive
- Continue to sponsor Annual Chamber Member Appreciation Train Ride
- Continue to sponsor Young Professionals Network
- Continue to develop and strengthen the Ambassador program
- Sponsor to Annual Dinner, Professional Day Luncheon, STAR Student and Teacher events
- Continue offering webinars and seminars of interest to membership
- Sponsor silent auction and research other non-dues revenue sources

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Vice Chair, Patti Deal

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

- Continue to focus on community pride
- Continue to support Darton, South Georgia Technical College, Crisp Co. School System and Crisp Academy
- Continue to support Keep Crisp Beautiful and research additional recycling resources
- Continue newcomer program to promote local businesses, churches, and civic/social organizations and also to involve newcomers
- Support the Ag community including the Farmers Market, Watermelon Days Festival, Hwy 41 Georgia Grown Trail and sponsor Farmers Appreciation Dinner
- Continue to promote volunteer opportunities through chamber and other organizations
- Support the Gillespie Selden Redevelopment Plan and public/private redevelopment efforts in the district
- Continue to co-sponsor CARE Awards with Crisp County Community Council

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Vice Chair, Anna Hurt

Goal: To interact with appropriate levels of government and the private sector to accomplish goals of the chamber and community.

- Continue to support the Cordele/Crisp Industrial Development Council and the development of Master Concept Plan for Inland Port
- Research & evaluate implementing and funding for Retail Strategy
- Develop Scholarship Program for three (3) to attend Georgia Academy program
- Continue to support Existing Industry
- Sponsor year round shop local program, Shop Small Saturday and local vendor preference
- Continue to participate in Locate South Georgia and Georgia Quail Hunt
- Continue to support businesses and individuals on how to start a business
- Continue to support Cordele Main Street, Downtown Development Authority and downtown development

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Vice Chair, Kimberly Reid

Goal: To interact with appropriate levels of government and the private sector to accomplish goals of the chamber and community.

- Promote Recycling
- Identify regional issues to promote such as the rail system, film production, etc.
- Develop and promote Cordele-Crisp Legislative Agenda
- Support rail system and intermodal port
- Refine GATE to eliminate unintended abuses
- Support renewal of Empowerment Zone Tax Credits
- Identify and support infrastructure improvements
- Develop the next SPLOST program initiative
- Support Land Bank Authority efforts
- Continue to sponsor Atlanta Legislative Fish Fry and Public Safety dinner
- Continue to sponsor Quarterly CEO/Managers meetings

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TOURISM DIVISION
Vice Chair, Anil Maniklal

Goal: To expand and enhance our visitor base.

- Continue to support the Cordele State Farmers Market
- Compete Beautification and Quiet Community Projects
- Continue to support Watermelon Capital Speedway including Speedfest and other events
- Continue to support the Georgia Vets Lights on the Lake Project
- Continue to support train museum, train viewing platform and Rail Trail projects
- Research Retail Project
- Research providing WiFi for tourists and visitors
- Support missile rehabilitation
- Research maintenance and upkeep of Gateway Project
- Research dog park
- Support Williams Field Park project
- Support clean up Exit 104 area

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AMBASSADOR CORP

The Ambassadors are the liaison between the Chamber Board of Directors and the 490 members of the chamber. They also sponsor the Professional Administrative Day Luncheon, Atlanta Legislative Fish Fry and other activities as needed.

Special thanks to each Ambassador for the great service you provide our chamber!

Dawn Mayo – Adams Drug Store
Ann Leger – Albany Tractor Company
Ricky Hughes – Ambassador Personnel
Abbie Greene – Ameris Bank
Laura Garland – Colony Bank
Trisha Gardner – Colony Bank
Brittany Leggett – Cook Industrial Electric
Monica Mitchell – Cordele Main Street
Christy Bozeman – Cordele/Crisp Industrial Development Council
Catherine Whiddon – Country Financial
Miriam Edwards – Crisp Area Arts Alliance
Ladreka Daniels – Crisp County Power Commission
Amy Moore – Crisp Farms
Tracy Watson – Culpepper-Wade Oil, Inc.
Rose Bridges – District Attorney’s Office
Renee Bodrey – Harris Waste Management Group
Eve Pope – PlantersFirst Bank
Wendy Lemaster – PlantersFirst Bank
Cherri Thompson – Pruitt Hospice of Cordele
Marsha Mitchell – Reflections Hospice of Crisp Regional Hospital
Heather Cobb – South Georgia Banking Company
Sandra Walls – Superior Residential & Commercial Cleaning
Dana Raines – Wellness Works



**Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors**

**Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce
Ambassador Corp**

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	2013.....Richard Grogg
	2014.....Bridget Milani