

CORDELE-CRISP

Chamber of Commerce

2011 Annual Report

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2012 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:

Platinum

Ameris Bank
Impact Sports & Fitness

Gold

Goldens' Foundry
Woodard Nursery

Silver

Cordele Dispatch
Cordelia Manor
Darton College – Crisp County Center
Helena Industries
Johnson Electronic Systems, Inc.
South Georgia News
South Georgia Technical College
WebSign Computers
WSST DT51



Keynote Speaker: Charles Williams

As an owner and CEO of a successful Marketing, Advertising & Public Relations Company, Macs! for more than 25 years, Charles Williams is a very experienced businessman and entrepreneur. He has applied his enormous energy, enthusiasm and imagination to the world of Physical Security as the author of “Don’t Panic!” which is a fresh approach to training for financial professionals. Charles Williams thinks differently and knows exactly what it takes to raise awareness in the battle to overcome complacency in financial institutions. Many businesses and organizations across the country have benefited from his thought provoking and lively presentations.

Charles Williams is a powerhouse with relevant experience, appropriate humor, and a lightening quick wit!

64th Annual Meeting and Dinner Agenda

Call to Order.....Ed Vaughn
 Invocation.....Rev. Ray Burnette
 Pledge.....Richard Grogg
 National Anthem.....Laura Stephens

DINNER

Dinner Music.....Norma Turton
 Introduction of Speaker.....Eli Tinsley
 Keynote Speaker.....Charles Williams
 Outgoing Chairman’s Remarks.....Ed Vaughn
 Recognition of Retiring Directors.....Ed Vaughn
 Volunteer of the Year.....Monica Simmons
 Exceedingly Excellent Teacher Presentation.....Bridget Milani
 Ambassador of the Year.....Richard Grogg
 Presentation of 2012 Directors/Officers.....Eli Tinsley
 Incoming Chairman’s Remarks.....Eli Tinsley
 Thanks and Adjournment.....Eli Tinsley

Special thanks to the following for their contribution to the success of the Annual Dinner meeting and report.

*Adkins Studio of Photography
 Ambassador Corp
 Kim Gunnells
 The Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club
 Murray Printing Company
 Kathy Odom*

2012 Officers & Directors Executive Committee

Chairman.....Eli Tinsley
Planters First
 Chairman Elect.....Richard Grogg
Sunbelt Ford
 Vice-Chairman-Organizational Improvement.....Ron Cruz
Pridgen Brothers
 Vice-Chairman-Economic Development.....Jamie Fernandez
Impact Sports & Fitness
 Vice-Chairman-Community Development.....Bridget Milani
Southwest Georgia Rehab
 Vice-Chairman-Public Affairs.....Jerry Carney
 Vice-Chairman-Tourism.....Angie Ellis
PlantersFirst
 Treasurer.....Jessica Carter
Crisp Regional Health Services
 Immediate Past Chairman.....Ed Vaughn
South Georgia Banking Company
 City Commission Representative.....A.J. Rivers
 County Commission Representative.....Clark Henderson
 Crisp County Power Commission Rep.....Rusty Slade
PlantersFirst
 Agricultural-Industrial Development Rep.....Bob Evans
Colony Bank

Board of Directors

Cleveland Lemmons <i>West Central Georgia</i>	Sonny Mehta <i>Days Inn</i>	Hal Carter, Jr. <i>Ag Ga. Farm Credit</i>
Josh Pitts <i>Ag Technologies</i>	Mitchell Gibbs <i>Rainwater & Gibbs</i>	Briley Edwards <i>Ameris Bank</i>
Jonathan Lafevers <i>Cordele Inland Services</i>	Willie Patrick <i>South Georgia News</i>	Mac Cook <i>Cook Ind. Electric</i>
Billy Hancock <i>Crisp Co. Sheriff’s Office</i>	C.J. Griffin <i>Cordele Sash</i>	Sandra Bowen <i>LBo’s BBQ & Classic Catering</i>
Susan Leger-Boike <i>Cordele Housing Authority</i>		

Retiring Directors: Phil Berryman, Don Cole, John Donohue, Charles Kerr, Kyle Pless

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.....	County Administrator
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.....	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/Small Business Development

Melesia Robling, Receptionist



Steve Rentfrow, Jamie Fernandez, Briley Edwards and John Donohue at the annual planning retreat.



Pictured bottom L-R: Richard Grogg, John Donohue, Jamie Fernandez, Ed Vaughn, Monica Simmons, Eli Tinsley; 2nd Row: A.J. Rivers, Ron Cruz, Bridget Milani, Susan Leger-Boike, Monica Mitchell; 3rd Row: Mitchell Gibbs, Rusty Slade, John Watford, Steve Rentfrow, Sandra Bowen, Sonny Mehta; 4th Row: Cleveland Lemmons, Bob Evans, Clark Henderson, Bruce Drennan and Briley Edwards



Todd Helms, Woodard Nursery oversees volunteers landscaping the Chamber building during the "Faith in Action" weekend.

**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

- Sponsored STAR Students/Teachers program
- Increased membership (membership drive) and participation of members
- Promoted Chamber 101 through Leadership Crisp
- Sponsored Young Professionals group
- Sponsored Annual Dinner
- Sponsored Professional Administrative Luncheon
- Held 15 Ribbon Cuttings and 1 Ground Breaking
- Sponsored Maximum Marketing Seminars
- Held 4 Business After Hours
- Supported Chehaw Boys Scouts Citizen of the Year program

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 the Crisp County Higher Education Center
- Continued support of Keep Crisp Beautiful for a cleaner community
- 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, with a focus on mentoring, and increasing graduation rate.
- Supported agricultural community by sponsoring Farmer's Appreciation Dinner and the 62nd Annual Watermelon Days Festival
- Completed 2010-11 Leadership Class
- Sponsored Red Cross Blood Drive
- Provided 50 New Comer Welcome Baskets
- Coordinated Community of Character program
- Recruited retirees to volunteer with chamber and other organizations
- Supported Gillespie-Selden redevelopment plan

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Jamie Fernandez, Vice-Chairman

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

- Assisted IDC, DDA and DBO/Main Street on downtown development
- Supported Foreign Trade Designation and Cordele Inland Services
- Supported extension of Empowerment Zone Tax Credits by contacting and asking our members and media to promote
- Provided technical assistance to new and existing businesses
- Promoted “Shop Cordele First” campaign
- Supported funding for transportation and other infrastructure
- Supported existing industries as needed and attended manufacturers luncheon
- Co-sponsored and participated in the Georgia Quail Hunt
- Received *Work Ready Phase II* Grant

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

- Tracked legislation that had specific impact on Cordele-Crisp County
- Supported and promoted SPLOST, which passed by 95%
- Supported and promoted ESPLOST, which passed by 89%
- Sponsored Atlanta Fish Fry attendees training session
- Continued to contact Legislators and other State Officials
- Sponsored Atlanta Legislative Fish Fry
- Sponsored Legislative update event with state and federal representatives
- Attended Eggs & Issues Legislative event
- Participated in GACCE Washington Fly-in to promote our needs to our congressional delegation
- Sponsored Public Safety Appreciation Dinner
- Promoted “*Get Out and Vote*”
- Coordinated Department of Transportation Board Retreat

TOURISM DIVISION
John Donohue, 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, SAM Shortline Excursion Train and Day Out With Thomas
- Promoted the clean-up of the Highway 280 corridor
- Continued to enhance tourism billboards
- Sponsored Triathlon and provided assistance to Crisp County Recreation Department
- Promoted Go Fish mega ramp
- Coordinated event for sail planes, railroad motor cars and other groups
- Provided information & goody bags to over 18,000 visitors
- Coordinated Fireworks on the Flint at Georgia Vets
- Participated in the Sunbelt Expo, Georgia National Fair, Military and other shows to attract visitors
- Researched providing “Wi-Fi” in the community
- Supported Camera Ready status
- Assisted Georgia State Friends Conference at Georgia Vets
- Sponsored Presidential Pathways Travel Writers



Ed Vaughn, chamber chairman, welcomed everyone to the 63rd Annual Watermelon Days Festival ribbon cutting.



Cordele - Crisp Chamber of Commerce
 2011 Ambassadors

Ambassador Corp 2011

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|--------------------|--|
| 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 LLC |
| Rebecca Coker | Colony Bank |
| Amber Herrington | Colony Bank |
| Brittany Leggett | Cook Industrial Electric Company, Inc. |
| Meloney Fortson | The Cordele Dispatch |
| Monica Mitchell | Cordele Main Street |
| Rose Bridges | Denise Fachini, District Attorney |
| Jodie Monts | Flint Environmental Services |
| Pam Morris | GBT Management |
| Renee Bodrey | Harris Waste Management Group |
| Shellie King | Harris Waste Management Group |
| Kellie Gilliam | |
| Barbara Fennell | Labor Finders |
| Billie Crane | |
| Patricia Gardner | Perlis Corporation |
| Wendy LeMasters | Planters First |
| Cathy Willis | Planters First |
| Kristy C. Purdy | SAM Shortline Excursion Train |
| Brad Christian | South Georgia Banking Company |
| Angie Turner | Stewart Financial Group |
| Catherine Whiddon | Whiddon Agency & Crop Insurance |

**CORDELE-CRISP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PROGRAM OF WORK 2012**

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

Ron Cruz, 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

- Develop Branding/Marketing Plan for community
- Increase membership (membership drive)
- Increase renewals and participation of members
- Sponsor Past Chamber Chairman's event and encourage participation
- Promote Chamber 101
- Sponsor Young Professionals group
- Sponsor Chamber Annual Dinner & Meeting
- Sponsor Professional Administrative Luncheon
- Coordinate Ribbon Cuttings and Ground Breakings for member businesses
- Sponsor seminars to assist member businesses
- Sponsor STAR Students/Teachers recognition program

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.

- Support Keep Crisp Beautiful for a cleaner community
- Help promote a cohesive community
- Expand "New Comers" program by "connecting" them into the community
- Support South Georgia Technical College, Darton College, Crisp County School System and Crisp Academy, with a focus on mentoring and increasing graduation rate
- Support agricultural community by sponsoring Farmer's Appreciation Dinner and the Watermelon Days Festival
- Support Red Cross Blood Drive & Southeastern Blood Services
- Coordinate Community of Character program
- Recruit retirees to volunteer with chamber and community
- Support Gillespie-Selden redevelopment plan

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jamie Fernandez, Vice Chairman

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

- Support Foreign Trade Designation and Cordele Inland Services
- Support extension of Empowerment Zone Tax Credits
- Support transportation and other infrastructure needs
- Promote "same" community strategic mission for city, county and chamber
- Support Cordele-Crisp Industrial Development Council, Industrial Development Authority, Downtown Development Authority, United Industrial Development Corp. and Cordele Main Street
- Provide technical assistance to new and existing businesses
- Promote "Shop Cordele First" campaign year-round
- Support existing industries as needed and attend manufacturers luncheon
- Review and update "How to Start a Business - Steps to New Business" manual
- Develop and implement plan to utilize *Work Ready Phase II* Grant

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 and Vote"
- Continue to promote SPLOST and ESPLOST by updating the on projects
- Sponsor Atlanta Fish Fry and continue training session
- Recognize Public Safety and other agencies that make important community quality of life contributions
- Update local, state and federal officials throughout year
- Track legislation that has specific impacts our community
- Research Transportation SPLOST
- Sponsor Legislative update event with local, state & federal
- Participate in GACCE Washington Fly-in

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

- Support Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park and SAM Shortline Excursion Train, including Day Out With Thomas, with funding and volunteers to increase the number of visitors
- Support and help fund Gateway Improvements community-wide
- Assist chamber with funding electronic reader board on 16th Avenue and research electronic reader board on I-75
- Continue to enhance and expand billboard project
- Sponsor Triathlon and other sporting events ie: golf, ball and fishing tournaments (promote *Go Fish* Mega Ramp)
- Coordinate events for sail planes, railroad motor cars and other events that promote overnight stay
- Provide community information & goody bags to all visitors
- Coordinate and sponsor Fireworks on the Flint at Georgia Vets
- Participate in the Sunbelt Expo, Georgia National Fair, Military and other shows to attract visitors
- Research providing “*Wi-Fi*” in the community
- Support Camera Ready status

KEEP CRISP BEAUTIFUL

Keep Crisp Beautiful had another great year in 2011 thanks to all of our active board members and volunteers. 850 people volunteered for our 18 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 2011 annual litter index Crisp County scored 1.53 and our goal in 2012 is to decrease that to 1.20.

2011 started with Bring One for the Chipper, collecting 45 trees to be recycled into mulch. The Great American Cleanup Kick-off brought 33 Volunteers from KCB, 4-H, and Crisp County Sherriff’s Dept. and we collected 250 pounds of trash. The Clothes Collection collected approx 50-60 bags of clothes, over 2 hours and had 13 volunteers. This year KCB was awarded the Cigarette Litter Prevention Grant. The annual Watermelon Decorating Contest brought the best of our local talent with elaborate displays made from our favorite fruit. Fall Clothes Collection collected 176 bags of clothes. Rivers Alive our most volunteered event of the year brought 127 volunteers collecting over 200 bags at the Blue Hole with MAJOR participation from Crisp County 4-H, River Keeper Board Member Paul Deloach, & Boy Scouts Pack 270. KCB closed the year out by receiving a grant from Pepsi Bottling Company for the efforts made to help keep Crisp Beautiful!

Thanks again to all the wonderful volunteers helping to Keep Crisp Beautiful! Because of your hard work and commitment, the quality of life in Crisp County continues to improve!

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

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
	2011.....Ed Vaughn