



PROGRAM OF WORK - 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT - Vice Chair, Don Davis

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

- Updating Chamber website and continue to use social media communication platforms.
- Utilizing Chamber data base to optimum capacity.
- Promoted benefits and value of membership in the chamber through newsletters and events.
- Sponsored Annual Dinner (320 attended) and Professional Administrative Day Luncheon (215 attended).
- Made follow up calls with all new members to see how things were going and to offer assistance.
- Planned and sponsored business after hours program –Colony Bank hosted one with a great turn-out.
- Reviewed Membership Investment Schedule & bundling Sponsorships & increased dues by 2%
- Held 13 ribbon cuttings and 1 open house.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Vice Chair, Doug Dean

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

- Supported workforce development programs provided through the school system, higher ed & IDC.
- Sponsored LeadercastCordele with a total of 60 in attendance.
- Supported health and wellness events: promoted all health care agency's events and programs and events at both gyms and Crisp Co. Recreation Dept. Sponsored 1st Annual Cordele Senior Olympics with over 45 participants.
- Supported and enhanced Keep Crisp Beautiful projects. Chamber Board voted to make Keep Crisp Beautiful a Division within the Chamber to give more focus to this important committee.
- Promoted pre-employment workshops for students and community; including preparing resumes, how to get a job, writing cover letters, etc. The Chamber already assists students and adults who need assistance preparing resumes.
- Supported neighborhood improvements and housing by supporting and promoting Southwest Ga. United's Rental property and the Farm Migrant Housing Program. We continue to support the Landbank program.
- Supported and promoted the Ag community including the Farmers Market, Watermelon Days Festival, Georgia Grown Trail Highway 41. Sponsored the Annual Farmer's Appreciation Dinner with 185 in attendance. Attended event at Farmers Market to hear from Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue & Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black after the hurricane on the devastation of the crops.
- Sponsored STAR Student/Teacher recognition at Lions Club.
- Sponsored Red Ribbon Week activities. Expanding program to highlight and educate parents and the community on specific drugs and other issues in the community (drugs, gangs & bullying) year-round.
- Sponsored 1st Annual Suicide Awareness Walk in memory of Brandon ?? with over 220 participants.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT- Vice Chair, Heath Hamilton

Goal: To develop programs to promote quality economic growth and provide assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs.

- Promoted business development in Cordele-Crisp County: including retail development, small business development, entrepreneurs, Shop Small, shop local programs to keep those tax dollars local. The Business Development Office in the Chamber is utilized by small businesses and organizations that provide services to our community.
- Contracted with Next Site Consulting Company to promote our community at ISCS Conventions, etc.
- Promoted Small Business Development – Business Plan Generation – We refer those needing assistance with a Business Plan to SWGA United, UGA Small Bus Dev., South Ga. Technical College, Albany State University and Georgia Southwestern University.
- Surveyed chamber membership

PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Vice Chair, Marlene Kimball

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

- Sponsored 30th Annual Atlanta Legislative Fish Fry at the Ga. Railroad Depot with over 300 in attendance.
- Sponsored Get Out & Vote.
- Sponsored Public Safety Dinner and Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.
- Sponsored Quarterly CEO/Managers meetings.
- Attended Congressional Luncheon – Cordele/Crisp had nine to attend.
- Supported renewal of Empowerment Zone Tax Credits, Gillespie-Selden revitalization, and macro-site
- Supported community issues which are in line with chamber member mission: land bank (educate community) and Southwest Georgia United Tax Credits and Crisp Regional Hospital Tax Credits.
- Supported Albany State University Cordele Campus. Chamber coordinated interviews with local leadership and the consulting company hired by the Board of Regents.

TOURISM DIVISION - Vice Chair, Eli Tinsley

Goal: To expand and enhance our visitor base.

- New billboard project guidelines were for co-op billboards, new intro boards and attraction boards on I-75.
- Sponsored 2nd Annual Hot Air Balloon Festival with 30 balloons, which was held at Georgia Vets.
- Promoted and advertised music events, festivals, holiday events, arts, geo-caching and other events which bring tourist to our community.
- Supported Historic SAM Railroad (Day Out With Thomas, National Train Day/Touch A Train & Friends of Historic SAM Shortline Excursion Train).
- Supported Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park events and Friends of Georgia Veterans.
- Supported Ag Tourism (100 Mile Peanut Pickin' Yard Sale, Ga. Grown Hwy 41 & Hwy 280 Trails, Cordele Rail Museum and Rail Fan Festival).
- Supported the following tournaments: softball, golf, horseshoes, fishing, road races/runs, walks.
- Supported Farmer's Market, Crisp Motor Sports, Sailplanes, Family Reunions and Conventions.
- Rebranded Tourism to include new logo, website, billboards and rack cards.
- Directional signage at entry ways of Highway 41 and Highway 280 – working with City of Cordele.
- Supported Retail/Entertainment development – contracted with Nextsite.
- Sponsored Triathlon and Fireworks on the Flint at Georgia Veterans State Park.

KEEP CRISP BEAUTIFUL DIVISION – Vice Chair, Doug Dean

Goal: To educate our community to build and sustain a local movement to reduce and eliminate litter and promote participation in efforts to preserve our environment.

- Sponsored Bring one for the Chipper collected 30 trees that went to mulch for beds and as fish habitats in Cordele-Crisp County.
- Save the Books Week - collected 25 boxes of books. The books were donated to Easter Seals, The Gateway Center, Fellowship Home at Cordelia Manor, Blackshear Villas, and Crisp Regional Nursing.
- The yearly Clothes Collection was held, in the Chamber drive thru. 75 bags were collected and donated to Hands of Hope, Crisp County School System and Crisp Area Habitat for Humanity.
- Fall and Spring County Wide Clean Ups were held with dumpsters placed at Williams Field and other locations around the community. Special Cleanups were held at Westview Cemetery, Georgia Veterans State Park, and Downtown Cordele.
- Keep Crisp Beautiful coordinated 5 events during the Great American Cleanup and promoted a roadside cleanup week to remind Adopt-A-Spot/Highway sponsors to clean up their adopted areas.
- We promoted litter awareness with new ad campaign, monthly tips in newsletter, and promoting Adopt-A-Spot/Highway Programs, and Earth Day at local schools.
- Promoted recycling through Recycling brochure, America Recycles Day, and researched other options for Crisp County to reduce waste, and reuse with collection events such as bag, clothes, book, and stuffed animals.