



Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce

April 3, 2008

Your Chamber—Your Community

Chamber Officers:

President: [Greg Schmieg](#)
 President-Elect: [Bruce Maloy](#)
 Past-President: [Lori Quinlan](#)
 Secretary: [William Moran](#)
 Treasurer: [Allen Parham](#)

This was the theme for this year's annual dinner held on March 6, 2008 at Roosevelt Warm Springs (RWS). The turnout was impressive, the food delicious, the décor beautiful and the program both informative and inspiring. A special thanks to Faye Perdue, State Farm Insurance for all her hard work and leadership in coordinating the dinner. Greg Schmieg, President of the Chamber and Executive Director of RWS served as host for the evening and gave the keynote address. Special recognition was given to AngioDynamics, Incorporated as the Chamber's business of the year; Patty Threadgill as volunteer of the year and Lori Quinlan, Georgia Power, for her leadership as immediate past president of the Chamber's Board of Directors.

Economic Outlook 2008.

Held on March 11th at Roosevelt Warm Springs, the Economic Outlook 2008 was impressive. A special thank you to Kip Purvis, President of the Meriwether County Development Authority for his keynote presentation on the economic outlook from both a national and local perspective. We also salute Sabra McCullar, Executive Director for FDR's Welcome Center and county tourism director for her enthusiastic presentation on tourism. She was joined by Becky Bassett and Maggie Potter from the Georgia Department of Economic Development and Ellen McEwen, President of the Presidential Pathways Association. There were approximately twenty resource providers/vendors to provide information to, and interact, with the entrepreneurs who attended. They included the Georgia Department of Labor; Department of Community Affairs; Georgia Department of Economic Development, University of Georgia's Small Business Development Center; Georgia Tech Lean and Quality Industry Services; USDA Rural Development; West Georgia Technical College; Flint River Technical College; FDR's Warm Springs Welcome Center; Better Home Town programs of Manchester and Greenville; Meriwether County Interagency Council/Family Connection and SCORE. There were also a number of area businesses who provide services to entrepreneurs including Meriwether Bank and Trust; Wachovia; F & M Bank and Trust; J. Smith Lanier & Co., Faye Perdue, State Farm; and Hutchinson-Traylor insurance.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Georgian Inn B & B
 P. O. Box 1000
 566 S. Talbotton Street
 Greenville, GA 30222
 706.672.1600
 Gloria (Sam) Christiansen
www.bbonline.com/ga/georgian

Perfect Cuts, Inc.
 3 Perkins Street
 Manchester, GA 31816
 706.341.6484
 Quarterius Willis, Owner
www.perfectcutsinc.com
info@perfectcuts.inc.com

Woodbury Flowers
 P.O. Box 839
 19 Durand Street
 Woodbury, Ga 30293
 Brad Edmonson—Owner
 Don Allen—Owner
 706.553.9595
woodburyflowers@hughes.net

Pennco Financial Services, Inc.
 P.O. Box 754
 Greenville, GA 30222
 Paul S. Penn, Jr., President
plpenn4@aol.com
 850.866.2853

KIA Georgia Training Center—Grand Opening

Several representatives from the Meriwether County area attended the recent grand opening of the KIA Georgia Training Center in West Point on March 25th. The delegation included Jennifer Meares and George Chapman (Manchester Development Authority); Lori Quinlan (Georgia Power); Kip Purvis and Velinda Walton (Meriwether County Development Authority); Carolyn McKinley (Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce); Charles Neely (County Commissioners); and Paul Penn (County Administrator). Governor Sonny Perdue was the guest of honor along with KIA representatives, officials from West Georgia Technical College; and representatives from Quick Start of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education. The building includes both classroom and laboratory space to offer a simulated manufacturing environment for pre-employment testing; wireless computer stations and advanced technology labs, housing manufacturing robots and their controllers, programmable logic controllers and other advanced manufacturing systems. The facility is an impressive addition to our West Georgia area.



THANK YOU
RENEWING MEMBERS

Flint River Academy
Woodbury

Contemporary Catering—Newnan

McCoy Grading—
Greenville

Geraldine Washington—
Greenville

Badcock Furniture—
Manchester

Patty Threadgill—
Manchester

Honorable Carl Von
Epps—LaGrange

Solomon Ferguson—
Greenville

Carol Lane—Greenville

Sandra Hudson—
Manchester

Georgia Department of
Labor—LaGrange

Sticks & Stones Builders,
Inc.
Pine Mountain

Housing Authority—City of
Greenville

Piggly-Wiggly—
Manchester

Mer. County Interagency
Council/Family
Connection—Greenville

Home Builders Associa-
tion—Fayetteville

Affordable Dental Coverage for your Employees



Dental insurance has been identified as one of the most sought-after employee benefit second only to medical insurance. Your Chamber is helping small businesses offer more affordable employee benefit insurance products through its participation in *MemberCare Alliance*, a statewide network of 125 Chambers of Commerce representing 140 Georgia counties. Discounts for dental benefits range from 5% to 10%. In addition to dental coverage, the *MemberCare Alliance of Meriwether County* program includes a variety of other discounted insurance products, such as group health; long and short term disability; accidental death; long term care and term life. For further information contact Purchasing Alliance Solutions, Inc. at 770-579-1214 or 1-800-782-8254, ext. 3014

The Best Companies Join Chambers of Commerce



The best places to work tend to belong to their local chamber of commerce, according to a recent study by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). Of *Fortune* magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work for" in the United States and Canada this year, 94 are members of their local chamber. According to ACCE President, "If a company cares about its employees, there's a good chance it also cares about its community and the chamber is the way that great employers invest in both. Local chambers of commerce are associations of businesses that come together to improve the local economic climate, build a stronger workforce, help their member companies grow their businesses and serve as a collective business voice.

Your Chamber Leadership is Coming to You!!

Beginning this month, your Chamber's Board of Directors is going on the road. The Board has pledged to establish a presence in every municipality in the county. We begin this month with a meeting on Thursday, April 3rd (8:00 a.m.) at Paul Parker's restaurant –County Line Café in Luthersville. If you are in the Luthersville area on Thursday, you are welcome to attend. The purpose of moving the Board meetings into different parts of the county is to make it easier for businesses and individuals to provide feedback, hear what's going on and make suggestions to the Board. We are inviting the mayors in each location to join us to provide an update on their city and offer suggestions on how the Chamber can better support all of the area it serves. Next month we'll be in Woodbury!

Congratulations Best Western Whitehouse Inn

Best Western Whitehouse Inn was recently recognized by Best Western International, Inc. for their outstanding commitment to housekeeping excellence. According to owner Janet Lawand, this award is very impressive due to the stringent inspection requirements imposed on the hotels. The Best Western Whitehouse Inn was also recognized by the Georgia Rehabilitation Association for its outstanding professionalism and hospitality. The Best Western Whitehouse Inn is located at 2526 Whitehouse Parkway in Warm Springs, telephone #706.655.2750. Ms. Lawand's email address is janetlawand@alltel.net

McCoy Grading has moved to a new location: 450 Callaway Road, Greenville, GA 30222. Telephone #706.672.2690; fax #706.672.2691

Alvista Health Care has a new name: Heritage Healthcare of Greenville. Their location is the same—99 Hill Haven Road, Greenville, GA 30222

Correction

Diverse Power is located in LaGrange—not Columbus as reported in last month's newsletter.



Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce
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706.655.2558

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<http://meriwethercountychamber.org>