

INSIDE

PAGE
2

Parsons Spring Golf Classic

PAGE
2

Chamber calendar

PAGE
3

Ribbon cuttings

PAGE
3

New members

Regional leaders D.C. bound

Business, civic, government, and education leaders will travel to Washington D.C. the end of April to provide valuable input on critical issues that affect the region. Meetings are set for April 29 and 30.

The annual trip, which includes meetings and informal discussions with elected officials and key department heads and decision makers, is a collaborative initiative of four area chambers, including the Aiken Chamber, North Augusta Chamber, Augusta Metro Chamber and Columbia County Chamber.

The Aiken contingency will be led by Chamber Chair Joe Lewis, Aiken Market President, Savannah River Banking Company. "This trip is important since it is an opportunity for the four chambers



Lewis

to brief Congress, the DOE (Department of Energy), and DOD (Department of Defense) on issues important to the CSRA. Our region represents more than half a million people, so it is important that we travel to Washington as one voice each year to make our positions known. I see tremendous value in this trip for the Aiken Chamber and our local business community," Lewis said.

A total of 37 key people from the four area chambers, known as the CSRA Leadership Group, will travel to Washington for two days of back-to-back meetings with elected officials and department representatives. On the first morning, part of the group will visit the U.S. Department of Energy and meet with key personnel there while the rest of the group meets with representatives at



Barrett



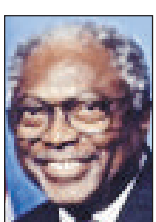
Barrow



Broun



Chambliss



Clyburn



DeMint

the Pentagon.

The groups will reconvene at lunch time for a presentation by consultants Booz-Allen-Hamilton on the nuclear workforce study they are completing for the SRS Community Reuse Organization. In the afternoon the entire group will meet with U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham and Jim DeMint (South Carolina), and Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson (Georgia). On the second day the group will meet with key members of the House of Representatives, followed by a presentation by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.



Jameson

"Members of Congress and agency heads find it impressive that our economic region includes two states, but we find common ground on important issues that affect the half million citizens of our region," said J. David Jameson, president/CEO of the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce.

During the trip, Fluor Daniel (leading partner, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC) will host a reception for the leadership group and several other guests, and Bridgestone will host a breakfast for the group and South Carolina and Georgia members of the House.

The Aiken County contingency participating in the CSRA Leadership advocacy trip to Washington, DC are:

- Dr. Sam Bhattacharyya – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (Savannah River National Laboratory)
- Dean Campbell – Washington Savannah River Company
- Fred Cavanaugh – Mayor, City of Aiken
- Ernie Chaput – Economic Development Partnership
- Cindy Delaney – Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce
- Dan Evans – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
- Nancy Gage – SRP Federal Credit Union
- James Gaver – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
- Skip Grkovic – City of North Augusta
- Dr. Tom Hallman – University of South Carolina Aiken
- Fred Humes – Economic Development Partnership
- David Jameson – Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce
- Monica Key - Bridgestone
- Clay Killian – County of Aiken
- Roger LeDuc – City of Aiken
- Joe Lewis – Savannah River Banking Company
- Rick McLeod – SRS Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO)
- David Mottel - SCANA
- Jerry Schneider – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
- Brenda Stein – Veracity Payment Solutions, Inc.



Graham



Isakson



Wilson

- Brian Tucker – North Augusta Chamber of Commerce
- Clint Wolfe – Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness

Those from Georgia participating in the CSRA Leadership trip are:

- J. Michael Ash – Medical College of Georgia
- Mandi Carroll – Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce
- Deke Copenhaver – City of Augusta
- William Edwards – Georgia Power Company
- Bryan Ginn, Jr. – Medical College of Georgia
- Karyn Nixon – City of Augusta
- Susan Parr – Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce
- Troy Post – Development Authority of Columbia County
- Dr. Dan Rahn – Medical College of Georgia
- Kathy Searle – E-Z-GO
- Stan Shepherd – at&t
- Ron Thigpen – Georgia Bank & Trust
- Thom Tuckey – CSRA Alliance for Fort Gordon
- Phil Wahl – First Citizens Bank
- Barry White – Augusta Convention and Visitors Bureau

Women in Business series to launch

The Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce will kick off its "Women in Business" Spring Luncheon Series on April 15. The series, entitled "09's Silver Lining – Keeping Your Talent and Growing Your Business," is designed to motivate participants to stay focused and prepare for when the economy turns around.

"The committee and I feel that the theme of the Spring Series is very timely," said Dr. Deidre Martin, University of South Carolina Aiken, and the Chamber's vice chair of Business and Community Development. "We have three interesting luncheon topics with dynamic speakers who will motivate participants to look beyond the current economy and help their businesses stay focused on the future," Dr. Martin said.

Women in Business Committee Chair Jenifer Granade, Atlantic Broadband, agreed. "We feel that this series adds value to what businesses are doing to get through these challenging times. We want people to know that there is a silver lining, which is why we selected this theme for the Spring Series," Granade said.

"What's in Your Toolbox?" is the title of the first luncheon on April 15. It will address how to take advantage of opportunities during economic downturns through career development and other possibilities. The session will be presented by Dr. Constance Pritchard, principal and owner of The Pritchard Group, Inc., a consulting firm that provides training in organizational development and human resource areas.

The second part in the spring series, "Attitude Shows," will be held May 27 and will focus on how to retain customers and employees in difficult financial times.

Janet Dunn, chief operating officer of the Family Y, will provide insight on how to remain focused on the fact that customers are key stakeholders and critical to the foundation of the company.

For the third and final session on June 24, Henri E. Baskins, regional director of External Affairs for at&t, will guide participants in learning how to address "real world" issues that businesses are facing. The session is entitled "Creating Your Own Rainbow: Practical Solutions for You and Your Business in Tough Times."

"I think this is going to be a great series for our women in business," said Dr. Martin. "We've designed it so that attendees can add value to their lunch time by meeting other business women and gaining valuable information at the same time. I encourage everyone to attend and learn how to get ready for the moment the economy starts to turn around," she said.

To register for the Women in Business Spring Series call (803) 649-1200, ext. 600 or email cdelaney@aikenchamber.net.

"09's Silver Lining – Keeping Your Talent and Growing Your Business."

April 15 – What's in Your Toolbox?

Presenter: Dr. Constance Pritchard, principal and owner of The Pritchard Group, Inc.



Pritchard

Learn how to make sure you are taking advantage of opportunities in economic downturns.

May 27 – Attitude Shows

Presenter: Janet Dunn, chief operating officer of the Family Y



Dunn

Learn how to retain customers and employees in difficult financial times.

June 24 – Creating Your Own Rainbow: Practical Solutions for You and Your Business in Tough Times

Presenter: Henri E. Baskins, regional director of External Affairs for at&t



Baskins

Learn how to address "real world" issues that businesses are facing.

Location: Newberry Hall, 117 Newberry St., SW, downtown Aiken

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Cost: The total cost of the three-part series is \$75 and includes lunch, networking and presentation at each session. Companies may purchase multiple series seats at \$75 each and send different employees to different sessions or the same person to all.

Call (803) 649-1200, ext. 600, or e-mail cdelaney@aikenchamber.net to reserve your seat today.

Young Professionals Leadership ready to serve

The Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce has announced the 2009 steering committee that will guide the Young Professionals programs and events this year.

A diverse and energetic group, these volunteers represent business professionals between the ages of 22 and 39.

The 2009 chair of the steering committee is Josh Stewart, J.E. Stewart Builders, Inc.

"I am impressed with the level of commitment these young professionals display to help us meet our goal of attracting and retaining young professionals in our community. They are a tremendous asset to the Chamber as stewards of a young, productive workforce that is so vital to Aiken's future," said Chamber President/CEO J. David Jameson.



Buchanan



C. Carlisle



P. Carlisle



Cook



Copeland



Creswell



Fallaw



Godbee



Granade



Hervly



Ingram



Lee



Luton



Padgett



Price



Rabun



Rusch



Stewart

Trip Buchanan, DDS
Aiken Comprehensive Dental

Christian Carlisle
Plum Pudding

Patrick Carlisle
Newberry Hall

Teresa Cobos
Midlands Technical College

Dana Cook
Veracity Payment Solutions

Chad Copeland
Shaw E & I, Inc.

Daniel Creswell
Farm Bureau Insurance

David J. Fallaw, MD
MCG

Nealie Godbee
Veracity Payment Solutions, Inc.

Jenifer Granade
Atlantic Broadband

Jennifer Hervly
ProLending, LLC

Clay Ingram
Garvin Oil Company

Angel Lee
USC Aiken

Ellen Luton
Security Federal Bank

Russ Padgett
AXA Advisors

Kevin Price
Security Federal Bank

Jason Rabun
Security Federal Bank

Aimee Rusch
Woodside Plantation Country Club

Josh Stewart
J.E. Stewart Builders Inc.
2009 Chair



Tyler



Walker

Chet Tyler
Aiken Motorcycle Sales & Service

Arlo Walker
Graybar

(Please see related article on page 3.)

"We have three interesting luncheon topics with dynamic speakers who will motivate participants to look beyond the current economy and help their businesses stay focused on the future."



Martin

Dr. Deidre Martin
USC Aiken and Vice Chair of Business and Community Development