

COMMUNIQUE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CHAIRMAN'S CLUB OF THE GWINNETT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**From the President
Get to
Know
Gena
Abraham**

By Jim Maran



IN RECENT MONTHS, you have heard the discussion of a Marshall Plan for transportation for the State of Georgia which calls for a massive, sweeping overhaul of how we develop our long-term transportation infrastructure and a definitive way to fund it.

Although the legislative session is over the Gwinnett Chamber will continue to work with our legislators, local agencies such as Get Georgia Moving, and the Georgia Department of Transportation to develop our state's "Marshall Plan" for transportation.

On May 28, the Gwinnett Chamber will host Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner Gena Abraham at the General Membership Meeting Presented by Rocket IT. Abraham will discuss her vision for the future of transportation in Georgia, including her thoughts on the department's deficit, project cuts, public-private projects and more.

With traffic congestion and mobility impairments reaching a crisis point in Gwinnett it is important that as leaders in the community, you get to know Georgia's new DOT commissioner, Gena Abraham. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Abraham's take on Georgia's transportation needs and to voice your concerns about Georgia's roads and highways.



Gena Abraham

Logical Choice Technologies Breaks Ground for New Corporate Headquarters

CONSTRUCTION BEGAN on a new 48,000-square-foot corporate headquarters in Lawrenceville, Ga for Logical Choice Technologies. A

is the developer and contractor for this project. "We at RACO are proud to be a part of this undertaking. Working with creative companies such as Logical Choice Technologies provides us an opportunity to showcase our skills in building and design," stated James Gaddy, RACO Vice President. "We look forward to a long, fruitful relationship with this successful Gwinnett company that is making its mark across the nation."



Logical Choice Technologies Senior Leadership Team, from left to right: Carl Christenson, Vice President – Marketing; Rudy Menna, Corporate Advisor; Sheri Lofgren, Vice President – Finance; Cynthia Kaye, President & CEO; Shelly DeJesus, Senior Vice President; Ron Kaye, Chief Technical Officer; Kevin Shupenia, Chief Operating Officer

ground breaking ceremony was held on April 2 at the facility's future site located at 1045 Progress Circle in the Gwinnett Progress Center.

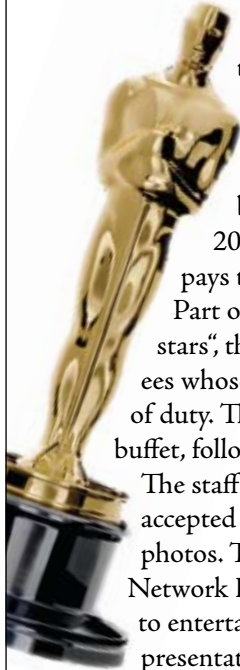
After tripling the size of the company's business in recent years, Cynthia Kaye, President and CEO of Logical Choice Technologies, is preparing to move the company into a state-of-the-art, custom-built facility that will accommodate the company's continued rapid expansion. Kaye said, "There is a technological revolution sweeping the world of education today and our company is fortunate to be playing a significant role in that. Our primary business is transforming traditional classrooms into engaging 21st Century learning environments which combine the latest interactive whiteboard and voice enhancement technologies."

Local Atlanta contractor, RACO

Founded with the goal of helping schools use technology to engage children and enhance the learning experience, Logical Choice Technologies has become the largest volume, full-service Promethean integration and training partner in the country. As one of leading U.S. suppliers of 21st Century classroom products, installation services and instructor-led training courses, the company now employs 140 people. Logical Choice offers a complete Activclassroom solution, which is comprised of Promethean products as well as AudioGear, its own brand of audio equipment that is especially designed for the 21st Century classroom.

"We are dedicated to providing schools with the technological tools they need to tap the potential of their students. Our investment in this new facility will ensure that our company's leadership role in this field remains intact as we grow over the years," stated President and CEO, Cynthia Kaye.

The "Academy Awards" at DeKalb Office Environments



"A DAY AT THE OSCARS" was the theme of DeKalb Office Environments 2008 company meeting held on March 20. DeKalb—voted one of Atlanta's best places to work in



DEKALB OFFICE ENVIRONMENTS
your workplace resource

2006 by *The Atlanta Business Chronicle*—pays tribute to it's employees every year. Part of the agenda was to recognize "the stars", the service champions, and the employees whose performance went beyond the call of duty. The ceremonies began with a breakfast buffet, followed by many award presentations. The staff received real "star" treatment as they accepted awards while the "paparazzi" snapped photos. The very talented Christine Whiton, Network Department Administrator, sang to entertain the crowd in between the award presentations.

Promotions were announced for the following people: Jemilla Bailey, Monica Blackwell, Melissa Huggins, Mark Borst, Jill Gray, Lisa Gray, Joe Rasper, Greg Reed, Kristi Jennings, Mark Stackhouse and Kathy Corum.

Each department — from Warehouse, Design and Project Management to Operations, Accounting and Sales Support — presented a movie that depicted "A Day in the Life" of what their respective department was like. The entire DeKalb cast voted for the best "Day in the Life"

performance. The lively performances kept everyone entertained at the Oscar ceremony. The winning department—Project Management—received the coveted "Oscar" statuette.

DeKalb was pleased to honor with Service Awards, those employees that have made DOE their career: **One year:** Robert Weishan; **Five Year:** Joann Abbott, Bennie Calhoun, Tim McWhorter; and **15 Year:** Corey Dial, Eric Price, Diana Rasper.

Awards were also received by employees in recognition of honor worthy, Oscar performances:

Star Awards: Arnelle Sweet, Adam Segall, Kathy Corum, Ernie Hightower, Jacob Lawler, Robert Oak, Rachel Miller, Shae Davis, Melissa Huggins, Dan Petaway, Stephen Ward, Mike Colquhoun

Bronze Awards: Bruce Hart, Kelli Munkel, Lisa Gray, Joe Rasper; **Silver Award:** Robin Effler; **Gold Award:** Corey Hayes; and **Eagle Award:** Melissa Morgan.

Prestigious Management Award Presented to Touchstone Homes

AFTER JUST RECEIVING the America's Best Builder Award for 2007, Touchstone Homes received the 2008 Management of Excellence award from the Lee Evans Group based in Littleton, Colorado. The award was presented to Touchstone Homes President Bryan Cohen and CEO Richard Stein at the Lee Evans Executive Summit in Vail, Colorado.

"This award inspires us to redouble our efforts toward continuous improvement and validates our 3-year preparation for these 'Incredible Times.' We are excited about the future and remain as always, aggressively conservative," says Richard Stein, CEO, Touchstone Homes.

This prestigious award is sought after by national home building companies of all sizes. Touchstone Homes is one of 20,000 national builders that applied for the Management of Excellence award in December 2007. According to the Lee Evans Group, other builders have applied multiple times for this award and never won; Touchstone won after its first submission. "Winning this award clearly brings Touchstone Homes into an elite group of home builders," says Jeffrey Abraham, CFO of Touchstone Homes.

Lee S. Evans is a retired professor from the University of Denver who started his career in 1954 by teaching builders about good management practices. At the time, he was Director of the Real Estate and Construction Management Department for the University of Denver.

He put together a group of professors from the university with a sponsorship from Practical Builder Magazine (now Professional Builder Magazine) and presented the first management training session in the industry. In the early 1970s, Mr. Evans retired and began conducting programs in Colorado for owners and top management employees of home building companies.

Touchstone Homes has been developing and building in some of Atlanta's finest communities since 1994. Over the years, as one of Atlanta's premier new home builders, Touchstone Homes has built new homes in Gwinnett, Forsyth, Fulton, Hall, Cobb, and Douglas Counties. Touchstone Homes' experienced new home builders and on-site professionals are well versed in assisting homebuyers throughout the entire home building process to ensure all your expectations are met. From the time you select your home and make all of your selections in our Design Studio to the day you move into your new home—we're with you every step of the way.

Touchstone Homes has received numerous Professionalism Awards from the Greater Atlanta Homebuilder's Association, and the company has earned the coveted Certified Professional Home Builder designation. Touchstone Homes has also received the national award of America's Best Builder for 2007 by Builder Magazine. For more information on Touchstone Homes call 770-945-5228 or visit www.touchstonehomes.com.

New Chairman's Club Members



Laurie McClain

Laurie L. McClain, CPA, PC

What distinguishes Laurie McClain, CPA from other accounting firms is a commitment to provide the highest quality service to all of our clients. We listen to your concerns, ask the right questions, and take the time to understand your needs so that your goals, dreams, and objectives can be accomplished. With two decades of experience serving privately held companies and high net worth individuals, Laurie McClain has the knowledge and the skills to help you solve your business challenges.



Victoria Kim

PARAGON AT SATELLITE

Paragon at Satellite is a retail, office, entertainment and lodging complex located in Duluth, GA just off of I-85 near the exits of Steve Reynolds Blvd. and Beaver Ruin Rd. The development is the latest project by Cornerstone Investment Group, LLC. – a Gwinnett County based commercial real estate development group.



PARC AT DULUTH

Parc at Duluth, a luxury apartment retirement community designed exclusively with the active senior in mind, is conveniently located at 3315 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., just one mile north of Pleasant Hill Rd. Focused on independent living for ages 62+, residents are offered exceptional amenities and services that enhance their lives in every way. www.parcatduluth.com.



Carlos F. Sánchez & Guiomar Obregón

PRECISION 2000, INC.

Precision 2000, Inc. was incorporated in 1998, by a group of civil engineers in Atlanta, Ga. Its goal is to develop projects where company expertise and high technology are an added value for the customer. Precision 2000, Inc. is able to maintain its expertise by using state-of-the-art hardware and software tools, which assist with estimating, scheduling, and planning in order to develop the most appropriate project management strategies.



Mark Williams

PRINTING TRADE CO.

Printing Trade Company was formed in 1970 by Ted Williams in the basement of his home. Ted's original mission of providing high quality printing, coupled with good service has been maintained by this family run business for 34 years. If you walk into Printing Trade company today, you will find Mike or Mark Williams carrying on the traditions of their father Ted. The company has grown to a 14,000 square foot facility just north of Norcross. The facility is well equipped and capable of handling all your printing needs from original conception of a project, to delivering to your customers. All services are handled in-house, including, design, layout, printing, foil stamping, embossing, stitching, folding, punching, binding, and mail services.

This 'n' That

Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, LLP Listed Among 60 Largest Accounting Firms

After enjoying another strong year in 2007, Atlanta's Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, LLP (HA&W) has now become one of the 60 largest U.S. accounting firms, according to Accounting Today's 2008 "Top 100 Firms" rankings — making a considerable jump to No. 58 from its 2007 ranking of No. 80.

Ginn Named Asst. VP of Marketing and Business Development at Haven Trust Bank

Haven Trust Bank is pleased to announce that Jackie O. Ginn, formerly with the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, has joined Haven Trust bank as assistant vice president of marketing and business development. Ginn will be located at Haven Trust's Sugarloaf Office, located at 6340 Sugarloaf Parkway, Suite 100, Duluth, GA 30097. Jackie can be reached at (678) 957-5502 or jginn@haventrustbank.com.

Ace Truck Body and Trailer Offers Facility for Ministry to Hungry and Homeless

Al Karnitz, president of Ace Truck Body and Trailer and South Gwinnett Rotary Club member, made his work facility available, at no charge, for the Trinity Life Church project. The South Gwinnett Rotary, working in conjunction with the church to minister to the hungry and homeless in Gwinnett County, purchased and refurbished a shuttle bus for the church to use as safe and reliable transportation for the project. The shuttle bus was held at Ace Truck and Body while being refurbished.

Upcoming Events

May 2

Success Lives Here Business Leadership Series
Featuring Terri Jondahl, CEO, CAB, Incorporated
Presenting Sponsor: Atlanta Real Estate Specialists,
Mike Runyan, Broker

Time 7:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
 Location The 1818 Club
 Cost \$45 for Chamber members; \$55 for non-Chamber members.
 RSVP Alicia Krogh at 770-232-8809 or alicia@gwinnettchamber.org.

May 15

Business After Hours

Featuring Plumbing Distributors, Inc.

Time 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 Location Plumbing Distributors, Inc, 1025 Old Norcross Rd, Lawrenceville, 30046.
 Cost FREE to Chamber members or a member's guest, non-members are \$20. Adults only.
 RSVP Not required. Contact Angelia Risher at 770-232-1273 or angelia@gwinnettchamber.org

May 28

General Membership Meeting —
State of Georgia Transportation

Featuring GDOT Commissioner Gena Abraham
Presenting Sponsor: Rocket IT

Time 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 Location Atlanta Marriott – Gwinnett Place
 Cost \$35 for members and \$55 for non-members; payment at the door is \$55.
 RSVP Natalie Shore at 770-232-8812 or Natalie@gwinnettchamber.org

May 29

Verizon Wireless Governmental Relations Meeting
Political Changes and the Economy

Time 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
 Location Gwinnett Chamber
 Cost: \$15 for Chamber members; \$25 for non-Chamber members, free to Chairman's Club. Registration deadline is February 27. All no-shows will be billed.
 RSVP: Natalie Shore at 770-232-8812 or Natalie@gwinnettchamber.org.

This 'n' That

Bomar Named Woman Business Owner of the Year at 2008 WE Awards

Marsha Anderson Bomar, President and owner of Duluth-based Street Smarts, Inc., was named by NAWBO–Atlanta (National Association of Woman Business Owners) Woman Business Owner of the Year at their annual 2008 Woman Entrepreneur WE AWARDS luncheon. Ms. Bomar was named Woman of The Year in NAWBO'S "WE EXCEL" category. To qualify for the prestigious award, a woman entrepreneur must have owned her business for at least five years and have demonstrated exemplary business achievement, customer growth, community leadership, industry influence and entrepreneurial success in the past year. She must also have earned public recognition and served as a mentor for other women.



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GWINNETT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAIRMAN'S CLUB



AMERICAN
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