

COMMUNIQUE

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



**From the President
Get to Know
Mike Garrett,
President,
Georgia
Power Co.**

By Jim Maran

As president and CEO of one of the nation's leading generators of electricity, it is good to have Mike Garrett on your side. Garrett, a Georgia native, began his Southern Company career in 1968 at Georgia Power. Prior to being named president and CEO of Georgia Power, he was president and CEO of Mississippi Power.



Before heading Mississippi Power, Garrett was an executive vice president at Alabama Power with responsibility for Customer Operations and Regulatory Affairs. Garrett also held Alabama Power positions as vice president of Finance; Birmingham division vice president; senior vice president of External Affairs and later, executive vice president of External Affairs.

Currently Georgia Power serves 2.25 million customers in 155 of Georgia's 159 counties. Their positive impact can be seen across the state, including Gwinnett.

"At Georgia Power, our people are our company. And our company is recognized by the actions and behaviors of our people," said Garrett.

Let me encourage you to get to know Mike Garrett at one of your Chamber events.

Hire Dynamics Remains Committed to the Success of Gwinnett

IN 2001, Dan Campbell, CEO and Jon Neff, CFO, two former college roommates, had a vision to start a business together, but they could hardly imagine that six years later they would end up heading Hire Dynamics, the largest Gwinnett-based staffing company.

Today, both Dan and Jon successfully run a \$50 million loyalty-based skilled staffing and professional recruitment company that was recently recognized by the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce as one of the 2007 Pinnacle Small Business Award winners. Headquartered in Suwanee, Hire Dynamics has 15 branch locations across three states (Georgia, Nevada and North Carolina). Over the past six years, the company has grown to over 100 employees, the majority of whom live in Gwinnett County. Recently, Hire Dynamics joined Partnership Gwinnett.

"At Hire Dynamics, we strive to be the loyalty leader in the staffing industry," said Dan Campbell. "We see Gwinnett County, with its immense population growth, as an important part of our future business and we

have long term plans to stay here."

"We believe Partnership Gwinnett is a great opportunity for us to con-



Dan Campbell, CEO of Hire Dynamics

tribute to the local community's economic development and thus ensure that Gwinnett continues to attract

great jobs and great people," continued Campbell.

As an employee-centric company with an in-house employee retention

rate of 74%, Hire Dynamics recognizes that the strength of a successful company is in its people.

"We understand that the future economic success of Gwinnett will largely depend on generating and sustaining job opportunities for local talent," said Campbell. "As a retention expert in the staffing industry, we feel that our own company's experience and services will benefit many local community businesses with job retention and expansion."



WIKA Instrument Corporation Receives the "Perfect Engine Award" from TBM Consulting Group

WIKA HAS BEEN AWARDED the fourth annual "Perfect Engine Award" from TBM Consulting Group, the global business improvement leader for the manufacturing and service sectors.

Each year, this award honors a manufacturer that has been successful in implementing LeanSigma® methodologies throughout its entire organization and throughout its value chain. TBM Consulting Group's selection criteria includes customer focus, workforce commitment, innovation, market share growth, value chain alignment, and fiscal responsibility.

WIKA celebrates the 6th Anniversary of its LeanSigma® journey. From 2001 to 2007, WIKA has executed more than 500 continuous improvement workshops called Kaizen events. These worldwide events have produced the following results:

- Sales revenue up 23%
- 5x increase in profit before taxes
- Rework and scrap reduced 13%
- External quality complaints reduced 60%
- Lead times decreased from 4-6 weeks to 1-3 weeks

"WIKA achieved the Perfect Engine designation because of its proven ability to implement and leverage cutting-edge processes that facilitate agility, continuous innovation and synchronization to assure the prosperity of the enterprise," said Anand Sharma, TBM Consulting Group's CEO. "In response to the pressures of a demand economy, WIKA has demonstrated significant success gaining market share and building brand loyalty through dedication to a LeanSigma transformation and commitment to investing in the workforce."



WIKA is one of four corporations to receive this prestigious award. Previous award recipients are Pella (2003), Hayward (2004), and Hubbell (2005).

WIKA is honored by this recognition. The company extends its thanks to more than 5,000 WIKA employees worldwide. Their hard work and dedication to excellence are the foundation of WIKAI's Lean success.

Gwinnett Magazine Receives Top Award for Excellence

Magazine Association of the Southeast recognizes Chairman's Club Member David Greer, publisher of Gwinnett Magazine, with Gold GAMMA Award

GWINNETT MAGAZINE HAS WON the coveted Gold GAMMA Award for General Excellence by the Magazine Association of the Southeast, one of the highest



honors the association bestows. *Gwinnett Magazine* was founded and is published by Gwinnett Chamber Chairman's Club member David Greer.

The Magazine Association of the Southeast's GAMMA Awards competition has been recognizing editorial and design excellence in magazine publishing for 18 years. This year, more than 400 publications competed for honors in 14 categories.

The awards judges cited the magazine's bold design and positive support of "all things Gwinnett" as having set *Gwinnett Magazine* apart from others.

Gwinnett Magazine was founded by Gwinnett Chamber Chairman's Club member David Greer and his wife, Kelly. David, a Gwinnett native, and Kelly, both had successful careers in marketing, spanning various segments of the industry—graphic design, advertising and printing—when they founded the magazine in 1997.

"We are truly pleased to be honored again by the

Magazine Association of the Southeast, particularly as we celebrate our tenth anniversary," said Greer, founder and editor-in-chief, *Gwinnett Magazine*. "A decade ago, we launched *Gwinnett Magazine* believing that Gwinnett County was full of great stories and unique people. It's been our goal to bring those stories to our readers with great spirit and a distinctive voice—and it's gratifying for our team to see our commitment to excellence recognized."



David Greer (photo courtesy of *Gwinnett Magazine*)

Since the first issue was published in July 1997, *Gwinnett Magazine* has doubled its annual page counts, tripled its revenue and quadrupled its staff size. Its standard monthly issue reaches 100,000 readers as the information source of choice for Gwinnett County residents who want the latest in local and lifestyle news.

Gwinnett Magazine is published nine times a year, with special issues for Best of Gwinnett, People to Know and the new WIKI Guide to Gwinnett. For more information, call 770.236.8703 or visit online at www.gwinnett-magazine.com.

New Chairman's Club Members

ACCESS PAYMENT SOLUTIONS



Tyler Long

Access Payment Solutions is a rising star in the merchant services industry, providing a comprehensive array of competitively priced payment solutions for businesses with an unequalled commitment to excellence, integrity and customer service.

Their success is built on providing their clients with more value, service and integrity in all that they do.

Their core business is bankcard processing, check services, gift cards and equipment solutions for the small to medium-sized business. They are breaking all the rules, and clients are enthusiastically embracing their consultative and candid marketing approach. They consistently lower total bills through reduced rates, merchant education and eliminated costs.

CAMERA REPAIR JAPAN

CRJ was founded in 1978. For 28 years, CRJ has maintained its original, principled vision of providing honest and exceptional repair service to consumers, retailers and manufacturers.

Today, CRJ has maintained its prominence as one of the leading repair facilities in the industry by combining multiple major repair firms into one. By this, they have created an excellent team of factory service technicians and the busiest repair facility in the southeast.

CRJ continues to strive for the best valued solutions to their customers while providing top quality repair service and economical repair charges.

GEORGIA JET, INC.

Chartering an aircraft with Georgia Jet allows you the ease in corporate or personal travel that you deserve. Courteous staff and experienced pilots will get you where you need to go, on your terms, and in style! Georgia Jet offers services commercial airlines can not—the luxury of your own jet, the assurance of traveling when and where you choose, and passengers on the plane that only you have chosen. With Georgia Jet there are no long lines at the airport, no worries of lost luggage or flight cancellations.

LLOYD BENNETT & COMPANY

With a unique combination of insurance, human resources, financial services, and technology expertise, Lloyd-Bennett stands out from other service providers. Their ability to provide a comprehensive range of business services—all from one vendor—lets their clients enjoy convenience without sacrificing quality.

Since 1985, they've made personal attention and long-term relationships the foundation of their business. They

want you to think of Lloyd-Bennett as your business partner and the company that you can turn to for all your business needs.

PENN HODGE PROPERTIES

Penn Hodge, LLC (PHLLC) is an Atlanta-based real estate investment and venture capital firm concentrating efforts on commercial real estate acquisitions, joint ventures, and sales. The firm's Principals are transaction driven with specific expertise and focus on master planned community developments, golf courses, land, and operating resort properties.

Over the past five years, the Principals of PHLLC have been directly involved in the acquisition, marketing, and sale of real property in excess of \$1 billion in value. Their experience comes from diverse backgrounds of finance, investment banking, sales, law, and accounting.

SALON 124, INC.



Brian Perdue

Founded in 1991, Salon 124 has grown to three locations including Snellville, Roswell and Duluth (Sugarloaf). With a foundation of educating and training the brightest talent, Salon 124 became one of America's fastest growing salon organizations, recognized by *Salon Today* for five consecutive years. Each of their stylists regularly attends training and advanced education courses at their own academy, The Process, or at advanced academies around the world.

TAOS TECHNOLOGIES, LLC

Based in Atlanta, Taos Technologies is a leading provider of integrated technology solutions and custom software development services worldwide. Their mission is to be recognized as an important force in setting and maintaining the standards of software development services in the IT market by providing their customers with high-quality, world-class, and cost-effective products and solutions.

WINESTYLES

From the moment you walk into WineStyles, your perfect wine buying experience begins. Find yourself transported to an Old World wine cellar, surrounded by a selection of the finest wines available from around the globe, all at affordable, easy-to-swallow prices—most of our wines are priced at under \$25!

Their mission is to bring superb, world-class wines to wine lovers in their neighborhood at affordable everyday prices. Wine experts work diligently to carefully select unique labels (many exclusive to WineStyles) and they specialize in hard-to-find wines from large and small vineyards.

Upcoming Events

July 17—Gwinnett Technology Forum The Future of the Internet

Time: 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Location: Scientific Atlanta Auditorium, Busbee Center, Gwinnett Technical College, 5150 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA, 30043.

Cost: No charge.

Contact: Jo Anne Wymer at 770-232-8812 or joanne@gwinnettchamber.org.

July 19—Business After Hours Featuring the Mall of Georgia

Time: 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Location: Mall of Georgia, 3333 Buford Dr., Buford, GA 30519.

Cost: Free for Chamber Members;

\$20 for non-Chamber Members

Adults only! Contact Angelia Risher at 770-232-1273 or angelia@gwinnettchamber.org.

Road Atlanta's Chairman's Club Reception is back by popular demand! Don't miss it!

Wednesday, July 25, 2007 • 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Road Atlanta, 5300 Winder Highway, Braselton, GA 30517-1710

RSVP by July 20 to Angelia Risher at 770-232-1273
or angelia@gwinnettchamber.org.

***Note rain date – Wednesday, Aug 1, 2007*

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This 'n' that

On April 26, **Anderson Insurance** hosted their 9th Annual Community Cookout and served over 300 lunch plates of Varsity hamburgers and hotdogs to their clients and business friends.

On Saturday July 21 at 6:30 pm at Duluth Festival Center Amphitheater, Hill St, the City of Duluth's **Summerstage Concert Series** presents a Sinatra and Friends Tribute show with The Usual Suspects Big Band, Produced by Atlanta Special Events. Admission is FREE. Bring chairs, blankets, picnic basket and dancin' shoes!

The River Club, an exclusive custom home and golf community in Gwinnett County doesn't just incorporate nature, it's preserving it for future generations. More than 80 riverside acres in the community have been protected through a donation to the Trust for Public Land, a national, non-profit organization that conserves natural areas and open space for passive recreation.

Students from the first class of **Georgia Campus-Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine** in Suwanee began two years of clinical rotations this summer following two years of intense on-campus classroom and lab study. Congratulations!

The **Republic Bank of Georgia** recently announced the addition of two new employees, Addam J. Taussig, Senior Vice President—Commercial Lending, and Russell Grigg, Assistant Vice President—Commercial Relationship Manager.

First Horizon Bank, a \$37 billion institution that entered the Atlanta banking market in 2005, has launched a food and beverage finance group dedicated to servicing fast food and restaurant franchisees/franchisors, regional and national restaurant companies and beverage distributors. The newly formed division is based in Atlanta and is currently working with a number of local and national clients.

NightGlass Media Group recently captured a series of videotaped interviews for marketing purposes for Giant Impact, a leadership training company located in Duluth. Giant Impact. Speakers at the event included: NFL Hall of Fame Quarterback Terry Bradshaw; Bernie Marcus, founder of The Home Depot; Herman Boone, former head coach of the T.C. Williams Titans.

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GWINNETT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAIRMAN'S CLUB