

2009 GMA Annual Convention Schedule of Events

Friday, June 19

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Registration

Saturday, June 20

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Registration

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Municipal Training Sessions

Municipal Training Course Descriptions

Attendees are required to present the appropriate training ticket at the door of their assigned room to receive training registration information and be admitted into the class. Roll call will be taken at the beginning of class and following lunch. Credit will not be given to attendees who are more than 30 minutes late for the class. At the end of the class, attendees will need to complete an attendance verification form and have it signed by the instructor. Attendees will be given one copy for their files and the instructor will keep a copy to ensure that credit is confirmed. To limit distractions, cell phones should be turned off while classes are in session. We also ask that you limit side conversations and unnecessary comments during training.

CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE COURSE: Enhancing Citizen Involvement in Governance

Harbor Ballroom, Westin

Have you every wondered why it's difficult to get citizens engaged in a positive way to contribute to the process of governance? This special course will explore the importance of citizen engagement and introduce participants to tools that have proven to be effective. In addition to hearing case studies from city officials, participants will be exposed to the concept of the "Deliberative Forum", a model which creates a mechanism in which diverse community interests are engaged in a structured setting to explore policy options and share insights, ideas and suggestions.

Presenter: Jon Abercrombie, Director, Common Focus

CLERKS' CERTIFICATION COURSE: Customer Service (elective)

Room 104

COUNCIL-STAFF RELATIONSHIPS

*On Required List

Room 102

This course explores the unique perspectives of municipal elected officials and staff and how a greater understanding of each other's perspectives can reduce friction and misunderstanding and

result in improved public service delivery. The distinction between policy making and administration and other council-staff related issues are explored using exercises, case studies and group discussion.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES

Ballroom A/B, Westin

This course is primarily directed at those who serve on Downtown Development Authorities but is open to all elected officials. Topics include management of downtown as a valuable resource; the role of the authority and of board members and staff; DDA laws; and the day-to-day operations of an authority.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*On Required List

Ballroom D/E/F, Westin

This course provides a basic overview of the economic development process, with a focus on the strategies, resources and programs employed by the state of Georgia to assist communities in achieving success in today's global economy. Topics such as community development building blocks, business development strategies, regional cooperation, and the role of local leadership in economic development are covered.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

*On Required List

Room 103

This course is aimed at providing municipal elected officials with a general understanding of the roles of local, state and federal government in responding to and helping communities recover from both natural and man-made disasters. The function of local emergency management agencies and important legal and financial issues that arise during times of emergency and disaster are also discussed.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (This a new course being piloted at this meeting.)

Room 105

This course will explore the environmental issues citizens and elected officials of Georgia currently face such as water quality and quantity, energy conservation, air quality and the handling of solid and hazardous waste. Participants will learn from municipal elected and appointed officials what cities are doing to address these environmental challenges, how to get citizens engaged and how to communicate and promote the environmental message. Participants will also learn how to respond to the challenges of working with state agencies. In addition, resource materials related to state law, state policy and state resources will be provided for officials to take home in CD format.

EXCELLENCE IN UTILITIES

*On Required List

Room 100

This course provides a general overview of the operation of municipal utilities such as gas, electric, water and cable. Topics include managing an enterprise fund, regulatory requirements,

hiring and retaining competent employees, setting and maintaining competitive rates, finance and accounting considerations and customer service.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:

Room 201

This course exposes municipal elected officials to some of the basic concepts involved in providing municipal fire suppression, fire prevention, and emergency medical services. In addition to reviewing applicable laws and codes, the course covers emerging issues and new technologies.

MUNICIPAL COURTS: ENFORCING ORDINANCES

Room 203

This course provides an orientation on the basic operation of municipal courts with respect to the adjudication and enforcement of traffic offenses, certain misdemeanors, and municipal ordinance violations.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE I

*On Required List

Room 200

This course is intended to serve as a basic primer on municipal finance issues that all mayors and councilmembers should understand. Included in this general overview is a discussion of the budget process, the revenue sources available to cities, purchasing policies and financing capital improvements.

OPEN MEETINGS/OPEN RECORDS

*On Required List

Room 202

This course familiarizes municipal elected officials with Georgia's open meetings and open records laws and the potential consequences for failing to adhere to them. Hypothetical scenarios are used to give participants a better understanding of their responsibilities and obligations for complying with these statutes.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Room 204

This course examines the difficult choices elected officials encounter in stimulating economic well-being, protecting public infrastructure investment, and maintaining environmental integrity. It examines legal considerations for planning and zoning, the role of the mayor and council, and practical steps for maintaining a comprehensive plan and effective zoning procedures. In addition, the course highlights issues, barriers and policy solutions associated with efforts to achieve desirable patterns of development.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS AND MEET THE MEDIA

Pulaski

This course teaches elected officials how to be more effective when speaking to groups or addressing the media. Techniques for developing presentation content and delivery, as well as tips for more effectively dealing with the media, are shared. As part of the course, participants make a brief presentation to their fellow city officials.

REVITALIZING NEIGHBORHOODS: TOOLS FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS

Room 205

This course provides an overview of the tools and resources available to cities interested in effectively responding to neighborhood problems such as dilapidated and unsafe structures, unsightly property, junk automobiles, weeds, trash and other nuisances. Topics include Georgia's Urban Redevelopment law, code enforcement and land bank authorities.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE

Room 101

Is your city at risk? This course focuses on the importance of loss control and safety training as a way of reducing insurance claims, and also provides a general introduction of risk management and insurance. Alternative ways to cover municipal risks are also discussed.

TAXATION 101-THE BASICS

*On Required List

Oglethorpe Auditorium

This course provides municipal elected officials with a broad understanding of the fundamentals of local government taxation including property tax, occupation tax, hotel-motel tax, sales and use and alcohol beverage excise tax. Participants will gain an understanding of tax language, appropriate usage of revenues and will be better prepared to communicate tax issues to constituents and make prudent decisions related to revenue expenditures.

11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Training Luncheon

Chatham Ballroom

Lunch times will be staggered and your exact time will be announced by your instructor. You must have a training luncheon ticket for this event. We are at maximum capacity with our training, so please no spouses or guests.

3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Grand Opening and Refreshment Break

3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

GMA Board of Directors' Meeting

Presiding: Kenneth Smith, Mayor, Kingsland – GMA President

Chatham Ballroom A

5:00 p.m.

Door Prize Drawing

Exhibit Hall

Sunday, June 21

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration

7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**City Attorneys' Session and Breakfast
Harbor Ballroom, Westin**

This session will feature presentations on Red Flag Rules: Preventing Identity Theft; Bankruptcy: Cities as Creditors and Exercising Police Powers; and Immigration: Complying with Mandates on Municipalities. Federal law and state legislative updates will also be given. *Special thanks to Alston & Bird, LLP for their sponsorship of our convention*

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

**City Managers' Session and Breakfast
Grand Ballroom B , Westin**

City managers will have the opportunity to fellowship with their counterparts from around the state, get the latest information about upcoming ICMA and GCCMA training and conference opportunities, get briefed on several critical legislative issues as well as hear about opportunities for your city to partner with GMA and UGA on graduate student research projects.

Presiding: Lee Gilmour, City Manager, Perry
President, Georgia City-County Management Association

Presenters:

Paul Radford, Deputy Director, GMA

Ted Baggett, Deputy General Counsel, GMA

Becky Taylor, Research and Federal Relations Manager, GMA

Laura Meadows, Associate Director, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia

Staff Contact: Paul Radford, Deputy Director

Special thanks to MEAGPower for their sponsorship of our convention

8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

**GMA Deferred Compensation/Defined Contribution Board of Trustees Meeting
Grand Ballroom A, Westin**

Presiding: Beth English, Councilmember, Vienna

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Open

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

Exhibit Hall

Special thanks to Waste Management for their sponsorship of our convention

9:30 a.m.

Door Prize Drawing

Exhibit Hall

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Annual Meeting of the RMEBS Membership and
GMEBS/WCSIF/GIRMA Boards of Trustees Meeting
Grand Ballroom A, Westin**

Presiding: Keith Brady, Mayor, Newnan

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Roundtable Discussions in Exhibit Hall

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Policy Committee Meetings (working lunch)

The purpose of committee meetings is to discuss legislative issues of interest to cities. The membership will use the meetings to review policy items suggested by city officials during the GMA spring listening sessions. The committees will also discuss recently passed legislation of interest to cities and what issues are on the horizon.

Community Development

Room 100/101

Chair: Edna Jackson, Mayor Pro Tem, Savannah

The committee will hear a brief overview of the recommended 2010 Community Development legislative policies and take action to adopt the policies for consideration by the membership. Also, with access to stimulus money very complicated with a lot of different agencies included, come learn from a panel of experts about the various types of programs that are available and the procedures for applying for these funds in Georgia.

Presenters:

Patricia Hoban Moore, Deputy Regional Director, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Brian Williamson, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Community Affairs

Rich Calhoun, Director, Wireless Project, Georgia Technology Authority

Staff Contact: Marcia Rubensohn, Governmental Relations Counsel

Municipal Government

Room 103/104

Chair: Pat Graham, Mayor, Braselton

The committee will hear a brief overview of the recommended 2010 Municipal Government legislative policies and take action to adopt the policies for consideration by the membership. The General Assembly continues to “chip away” at Home Rule, especially as it pertains to revenue, annexation and local quality of life ordinances. In an era where “partnership” should be the order of the day between cities, counties and the state, we seem to be headed in a very different direction. In fact, many cities are in the middle of complex and sometimes contentious Service Delivery Strategy negotiations. We will hear the story of service delivery negotiations that fourteen cities in Gwinnett County are currently engaged in, as well as hear from several legislative leaders.

Presenters:

Senator Don Balfour, Chair, Senate Rules Committee

Representative John Lunsford, Vice Chair, House Rules Committee

Dave Williams, Mayor, Suwanee

Staff Contact: Lamar Norton, Director, Governmental Relations

Special thanks to MuniServices for their sponsorship of our convention

Transportation

Room 105/106

Chair: Boyd Austin, Mayor of Dallas

The committee will hear a brief overview of the recommended 2010 Transportation legislative policies and take action to adopt the policies for consideration by the membership. Interim DOT Commissioner Gerald Ross will provide an update on DOT's progress in administering federal Recovery Act funds in Georgia's cities. Mr. Ross will also provide an overview of SB200, which was recently signed into law by Governor Perdue. This bill brings sweeping changes to programs that provide funding for local transportation projects, and city officials in attendance will learn about the impact of this legislation on Georgia's cities. Leslie Wollack with the National League of Cities is the chief NLC staff person dealing with federal Recovery Act funding for state and local transportation projects, and she will be on hand to provide attendees with information about the Competitive Surface Transportation Program, which includes \$1.5 billion in discretionary funds for local transportation projects nationwide. Ms. Wollack will present information to policy committee members on how they can qualify and apply for grant funds under this flexible program. Jeff Mann, Senior Director of Policy and Development with Amtrak, will discuss high speed rail initiatives available to Georgia through ARRA.

Presenters:

Gerald Ross, Interim Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation

Leslie Wollack, Principal Legislative Counsel, Federal Relations, National League of Cities

Jeff Mann, Senior Director, Policy and Development, Amtrak

Staff Contact: Becky Taylor, Research & Federal Relations Manager

1:15 p.m.

Door Prize Drawing

Exhibit Hall

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Policy Committee Meetings (snacks provided)

The purpose of committee meetings is to discuss legislative issues of interest to cities. The membership will use the meetings to review policy items suggested by city officials during the GMA spring listening sessions. The committees will also discuss recently passed legislation of interest to cities and what issues are on the horizon.

Environment and Natural Resources

Room 100/101

Chair: Deke Copenhaver, Mayor, Augusta

The committee will hear a brief overview of the recommended 2010 Environment and Natural Resources legislative policies and take action to adopt the policies for consideration by the membership. Environmental budget recommendations and water planning will also be a focus of the Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee meeting. In addition, there will be a presentation of the programs the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority offers to cities, and the opportunities made available through federal stimulus funds, particularly the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. Finally, the committee will honor its outgoing chairman, Mayor Ken Turner of Gordon, for his two years of service to GMA.

Presenter: Phil Foil, Executive Director, Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority

Staff Contact: Tom Gehl, Deputy Director, Governmental Relations
Special thanks to Brown and Caldwell for their sponsorship of our convention

Revenue and Finance

Room 103/104

Chair: Mike Bodker, Mayor, Johns Creek

The committee will hear a brief overview of the recommended 2010 Revenue and Finance legislative policies and take action to adopt the policies for consideration by the membership.

The committee will also hear an overview of legislation that passed during the 2009 Legislative Session and a discussion of legislation impacting city revenues that is pending for 2010.

Representative Larry O'Neal will speak about his role as the House Ways and Means Committee Chair and what important issues he sees on the horizon.

Presenter: Representative Larry O'Neal, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee

Staff Contact: Gwin Hall, RMEBS Associate Legal Counsel

Public Safety

Room 105/106

Chair: Willie Burns, Mayor, Washington

The committee will hear a brief overview of the recommended 2010 Public Safety legislative policies and take action to adopt the policies for consideration by the membership, as well as a briefing on public safety related legislation. Traffic accidents are the number one cause of death for Georgians under the age of 35. Come hear about the recently issued report by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police on the benefits of accident data based traffic enforcement.

Finally, the committee will honor its outgoing chairman, Mayor John Reid of Eatonton, for his two years of service to GMA.

Presenter:

Mike Jones, Police Chief, Suwanee

President, Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police

Staff Contact: Ted Baggett, Deputy General Counsel

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Opening General Session

Chatham Ballroom

Presiding: Kenneth Smith, Mayor, Kingsland-GMA President

Invocation: Billy Trapnell, Mayor, Metter-GMA Third Vice President

Parade of Flags

National Anthem: LeGree McCamey, Councilmember, LaGrange

Welcome to Savannah: Otis Johnson, Mayor, Savannah

Presentation of Renaissance Award: Mike Starr, President, Georgia Cities Foundation

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lowell Catlett, Futurist and Regents Professor, New Mexico State University

“The Greening of America”

Special thanks to The Coca Cola Company and Georgia Power Company for their sponsorship of our convention.

5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Grand Ballroom A, Westin

Legislative Policy Council Meeting

Presiding: Ken Steele, Mayor, Fayetteville- GMA Second Vice President

Monday, June 22

7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Registration

8:15 a.m.

Door Prize Drawing

Chatham Ballroom

8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

General Session

Chatham Ballroom

Presiding: Bill Floyd, Mayor, Decatur-GMA First Vice President

Entertainment: Melanie Hammet, Councilmember, Pine Lake

Presentation: The Sustainable Cities Institute Initiative

Fred Wacker, Director and Chief Operating Officer, The Home Depot Foundation

The Next Chapter: Policy, Priorities and Politics

The current economic crisis has exposed deep structural problems, not just in the U.S. but worldwide. This situation and responses to it are reshaping the landscape in government and key business and employment sectors. And there is a resulting element of uncertainty as to what the future holds for us individually and the communities where we live. The federal stimulus package, the restructuring of banks and the auto industry, state and local budgets, how we meet immediate needs while planning for future transformations -- and oh yes, politics; these and other issues are all on the table as an impressive panel of thought leaders discuss where we go from here in **“The Next Chapter.”**

Moderator: Jami Gaudet, Former Macon Television Reporter and Radio Host

Panelists:

Senator Don Balfour, Chair, Senate Rules Committee

Ray Christman, Retired President & CEO, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta

Craig Lesser, Managing Partner, Pendleton Consulting Group, LLC

Speaker Glenn Richardson, Georgia House of Representatives

Commissioner Michael Thurmond, Georgia Department of Labor

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Go Green While Staying in the Black: Making Savvy Economic *and* Environmental Choices

Room 105/106

Can “going green” save your city green-back dollars? “Green collar jobs” is now part of the national lexicon, and a city's commitment to environmental ethics can boost economic development. Hear about the success our northern neighbor Chattanooga has had in becoming the "Boulder of the East" and how its "green initiatives" helped land the new Volkswagen plant. Directors of two of the Southeast's premiere energy and sustainability non-profits will discuss policy opportunities to maximize savings, attract businesses and boost your community's quality of life. It *can* be easy going when you're green!

Moderator: Deke Copenhaver, Mayor, Augusta

Presenters:

Cyrus Bhedwar, Southeast Regional Manager, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability U.S.A., Inc.

Ron Littlefield, Mayor, Chattanooga, Tennessee

Ben Taube, Executive Director, Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance

Staff Contact: Tom Gehl, Deputy Director, Governmental Relations

Lights! Camera! Action! Preserving Your Theater

Room 100/101

Downtown theatres hold a special place in the hearts of many Americans. However, due to many factors, including the emergence of suburban multi-screen complexes, many downtown theatres have been lost through neglect or demolition. Today, as a part of a growing trend of downtown revitalization, numerous downtown theatres are being restored and finding new life as performing arts centers. During this session, representatives from the Fox Theatre Institute (FTI) will discuss the various services that they can provide to downtown theatres. The Fox Theatre Institute is the only comprehensive preservation organization in the United States and is the premiere resource for historic theatre restoration and revitalization in Georgia. Additionally, representatives from the Georgia Cities Foundation will discuss how the Foundation's revolving loan fund program has assisted with the rehabilitation of several downtown theatres in Georgia.

Moderator: Mike Starr, President, Georgia Cities Foundation

Presenters:

Adina Alford Erwin, Assistant General Manager, The Fox Theatre

Molly Fortune, Director of Restoration, The Fox Theatre

Caroline Bridges Driebe, Project Coordinator, The Fox Theatre Institute

Alan Dickerson, Community Development Associate, GMA

Staff Contact: Perry Hiott, Director, Research & Redevelopment Services

Tweets, Friends, Blogs, Oh My! Becoming @ Ease with Social Media

Room 103/104

Communicating in the 21st Century involves a new vocabulary. From tweets to blogs to podcasting to micro-blogging to wikis and more, the social media lexicon is at times confusing. This session will provide an overview of what Social Media is, the tools and techniques used to participate in this new medium, examples of how cities are using social media to more

effectively communicate to their citizens and brand their communities, and issues cities and city officials should be aware of before jumping into the fray.

Moderator: Dave Williams, Mayor, Suwanee

Presenters:

Burton Sauls, New Media Technology Consultant

Brian Wallace, Online Communications Manager, GMA

Staff Contact: Brian Wallace, Online Communications Manager

The “Inns” and Outs of Hotel/Motel Taxes

Oglethorpe Auditorium

With the economy in decline, boosting tourism and hotel-motel tax revenue is more important than ever. How can city officials and tourism groups work together to promote your community and attract guests? Don't have a tourism group (or one that you can work with)? This session will offer tips on starting from scratch and on improving and maximizing what you already have. It will also provide information on how cities can spend hotel-motel tax dollars under the new law, and how to use the law to meet your local needs.

Moderator: Larry Hanson, City Manager, Valdosta

Presenters:

Barry H. Biggar, CDME, President/CEO, Visit Fairfax

Barry White, President, Augusta Convention and Visitors Bureau

Jackie Wilson, Mayor, Douglas

Staff Contact: Gwin Hall, RMEBS Associate Legal Counsel

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

The Art and Science of Governance in Urban Georgia

204/205

Georgia is a diverse and rapidly growing state. During the last census, Georgia added several additional designated urban areas, for a total of fifteen. These urban areas range from metro Atlanta, which is the eighth largest region in the country, to Hinesville, one of the smallest in the country. Regardless of the population or land mass size of these areas, they are as diverse as the state itself and offer unique challenges to city leaders in terms of governance, resource management and intergovernmental relations. There are also many common threads that bind them together in policy and economics. This session will provide a snapshot of Georgia's urban areas and engage participants in an interactive discussion about how they can more effectively respond to the challenges of governance in an urban environment and how GMA can better support their efforts.

Moderator: Mike Bodker, Mayor, Johns Creek

Facilitator: Dr. Joe Whorton, Director, Fanning Institute, University of Georgia

Staff Contact: Paul Radford, Deputy Director

Fiscal First Aid: Buying Results Citizens Want

103/104

The economic crisis has placed enormous pressure on state and local government budgets. Revenues are down but expectations for municipal services remain high. Cities all across the

state are struggling with how to maintain and meet citizen service level expectations while balancing a budget with significantly reduced revenues. This session will feature the efforts of three Georgia cities that have fully engaged their elected officials, staff and citizens in making these tough decisions. Participants will also hear from the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee about the tough decisions made by the General Assembly in downsizing its current year budget and in developing the FY2010 budget that starts on July 1st.

He will also give us his thoughts on the fundamental issues shaping future state budgets.

Moderator: Boyd Austin, Mayor, Dallas

Presenters:

Representative Ben Harbin, Chair, House Appropriations Committee

Chris Morrill, Assistant City Manager, Savannah

Phil McLemore, City Administrator, Duluth

Terrell Jacobs, City Manager, Douglas

Staff Contact: Becky Taylor, Research and Federal Relations Manager

Greening Our Cities: Sustainable Practices of Local Governments

105/106

From urban gardens to trolleys that run on used cooking oil, cities throughout the state are greening themselves through environmentally sustainable innovations. Citizen buy-in is key in determining the level of environmental friendliness your city can achieve. Hear ways to energize your citizenry through environmental education programs and ways to lower your city's operating costs through the use of Environmental Management Systems (EMS). What innovative practices will your city employ to be a state leader in environmental sustainability?

Moderator: Otis Johnson, Mayor, Savannah

Presenters:

Thatcher Young, Pollution Prevention Advisor, Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Sustainability Division

Brenda Hayes, Public Service Associate, Fanning Institute, University of Georgia

Laura Aikens, Environmental Education Specialist, Roswell

Staff Contact: Korey Dickens, Research Associate

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Credentials Pick Up

Outside Chatham Ballroom

City officials designated by their cities to serve as the official voting delegate for the annual business meeting should pick up their voting credentials before entering the business meeting.

3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

General Session and Business Meeting

Chatham Ballroom

Presiding: Kenneth Smith, Mayor, Kingsland – GMA President

Speaker: Jeffrey H. Dorfman, Professor of Economics, University of Georgia

As GMA prepares to adopt its 2010 legislative policies, Jeffrey Dorfman, a Professor of Economics at the University of Georgia, will provide his views on the economic environment city and state officials will be facing over the next 12 to 18 months and how this environment could influence GMA's legislative strategy and the 2010 general election.

Report from the Legislative Policy Council & Adoption of the 2010 Legislative Policies

Ken Steele, Mayor, Fayetteville – GMA Second Vice President

Nominating Committee Report & Election of 2009-2010 Officers and Board of Directors

Mickey Thompson, Mayor, Douglasville

4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

**Door Prize Drawing
Chatham Ballroom**

6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Taste of Savannah

Exhibit Hall Area, Savannah International Trade and Convention Center

Enjoy some of Savannah's finest restaurants. Sample specialties from Russo's Seafood, Johnny Harris' Barbecue, Crystal Beer Parlor, Savannah Candy Kitchen, Coach's Corner Pizza, Savor Savannah Catering, Country Lane Confections and Two Smart Cookies.

Open Bar: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Cash Bar: 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Entertainment

On the Main Stage in the Exhibit Hall

7:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Legends of Soul (formerly Statesboro Blues)

Enjoy your favorite Rhythm and Blues and Motown hits in an entertaining performance featuring Councilmember Gary Lewis of Statesboro.

8:00pm – until prizes run out

BINGO

Oglethorpe Auditorium

Tuesday, June 23

7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Registration

8:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Awards and Installation Breakfast

(separate ticket required)

Chatham Ballroom

Presiding: Kenneth Smith, Mayor, Kingsland-GMA President

Invocation:

Installation of Officers and Board of Directors: Susan Moore, General Counsel, Georgia Municipal Association

Awards Presentations:

Certified Cities of Ethics

Billy Trapnell, Mayor, Metter-GMA Third Vice President

Municipal Government Hall of Fame

Jimmy Burnette, Mayor Pro Tem, Suwanee
Chair, GMA Awards Committee

State Government Service Award

Jim Higdon, GMA Executive Director

Training Certificates

Dr. Art Dunning, Senior Vice President, Public Service and Outreach, University of Georgia

Laura Meadows, Associate Director, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia

Special thanks to AT&T for their sponsorship of our convention

10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Municipal Training Institute

ETHICS:

*On Required List

Room 106

This course examines the importance of ethical conduct in the administration of one's public duties and how ethical lapses can severely damage the reputation of both individual officeholders and the city. An overview of state ethics laws and regulations that apply to municipal officials, including campaign financing and private interest disclosure requirements, is provided. Ethical dilemmas that often confront public officials and the value of strong local ethics ordinances are also discussed.

MOBILE WORKSHOP: "Cities Going Green: The Environmental and Economic Benefits"

The City of Savannah will showcase its new green initiative, "Thrive: Environment • Economy • Community."

In August 2008, city councilmembers took the following oath: "I will strive to understand the social and environmental consequences of my actions and pledge to help Savannah Thrive by taking part in activities that promote an eco-friendly and sustainable community." Some of those activities include: energy audits, using fuel efficient vehicles, offering flextime and telecommuting for city employees, installing low flow fixtures, recovery of methane from water treatment facility, educational programs to promote reuse of materials and recycling and composting at city facilities. During this workshop, city representatives will share their plan for reducing Savannah's carbon footprint.

Oglethorpe Auditorium

MUNICIPAL FINANCE I

*On Required List

Room 105

This course is intended to serve as a basic primer on municipal finance issues that all mayors and councilmembers should understand. Included in this general overview is a discussion of the budget process, the revenue sources available to cities, purchasing policies and financing capital improvements.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Training Luncheon

Chatham Ballroom A