

2009 Mayors' Day Conference

January 24 – 26

Atlanta Hilton

General Information

Meal Tickets

Tickets are required for the following events:

Municipal Training Luncheon

Sunday Luncheon

Monday Breakfast

Monday Reception

Tickets for guests may be purchased at the registration desk.

Registration Desk Hours

The GMA Registration Desk is located on the second floor and will be open during the following hours:

Saturday, January 24 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 25 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday, January 26 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Schedule of Events

Saturday, January 24

7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Registration

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Municipal Training Courses

Building Hometown Connections: Lobbying 101: This course provides an overview of the state legislative process and helps city officials understand how they can be effective advocates of issues important to their community and cities throughout the state.

Participants receive ideas for establishing productive year-round relationships with members of the General Assembly as well as practical lobbying tips they can use during the legislative session. The course also includes a hands-on exercise using real-life legislative scenarios.

Henry Room, 2nd Floor

Community and Media: This course examines the importance of building effective working relationships with the media and the role the media plays in informing the public and shaping their opinion of municipal governments. Advice for repairing poor relationships is provided, along with insights on when and how to speak with reporters, especially during times of crisis.

Fulton Room, 2nd Floor

Downtown Development Authorities: (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.): 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.

Salon B/C, 2nd Floor

Ethics: 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.

Fayette/Newton Room, 2nd Floor

Housing Solutions for Cities: A Key Element To the Economic Development Strategy

This course provides officials with information about housing needs and issues, as well as programs and resources available to assist communities. Participants learn how their respective counties compare with the state as it relates to housing, family size, and income data, as well as how other cities have used available financing to leverage their housing efforts. Afternoon roundtable discussions provide answers to questions and a toolbox of ideas and resources, including names and phone numbers of persons who can help solve housing problems.

Carter Room, 3rd Floor

Human Resources I: This course provides an overview of state and federal personnel laws that apply to municipal governments and the basics of human resource management. Key topics include day-to-day issues facing human resource staffs, the role of the personnel manager, establishing and adhering to sound personnel policies and procedures and dealing with the media.

Madison Room-3rd Floor

Law Enforcement Services: Trends and Best Practices (Previously Public Safety):

This course familiarizes municipal elected officials with the basic concepts of law enforcement. In addition to reviewing applicable laws, funding mechanisms and staffing models, the course addresses emerging public safety issues, trends and innovations.

Walton Room, 2nd Floor

Leadership Alumni Seminar: (4-Day Leadership Institute is a prerequisite) The Leadership Challenge-Part Two

As a leader, what do I need to do to mobilize others to want to do extraordinary things for my city? Experience the practices that successful leaders use to accomplish the extraordinary. Utilizing James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner's bestselling book The Leadership Challenge, leadership alumni will have a chance to analyze their own leadership successes and stumbling blocks.

DeKalb/Gwinnett Room 2nd Floor

Managing Growth: Economic and Natural Resource Issues:

This course shows city leaders how they can exert meaningful control over how their community grows. Topics include economic and ecological considerations, protecting water quality, regulatory initiatives and regionalization. Promoting infill development and redevelopment, preserving land and capturing private investment are also covered. Cherokee Room, 2nd Floor

Managing Meetings and Parliamentary Procedure: This course teaches elected officials how to conduct more effective and orderly meetings. A major focus of the course is the proper use of parliamentary procedure. Participants are also taught how to sell ideas, manage conflict and promote consensus.

Cobb/Clayton Room, 2nd Floor

Municipal Law: This course reviews the sources and limitations of authority granted to municipal governments by the federal and state constitutions, as well as statutes enacted by the U.S. Congress and Georgia General Assembly. The role and function of the municipal charter is also discussed. Other key topics covered during this course include municipal contracts, annexation, legal aspects of boards and authorities, and the personal liability of public officials.

Rockdale/Forsyth Room, 2nd Floor

Open Meetings/Open Records: 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. Jackson Room, 3rd Floor

Planning and Zoning: 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.

Douglas/Paulding, 2nd Floor

Taxation 101-The Basics: This course provides municipal elected officials with a broad understanding of the fundamentals of local government taxation relating to the property tax, hotel-motel tax and sales and use tax. Participants will gain an understanding of tax language and appropriate usage of revenues and will leave better prepared to communicate tax issues to constituents and make prudent decisions related to revenue expenditures.

Roosevelt/Monroe Room, 3rd Floor

Training Luncheon

Time will be announced in each class.

Salon West, 2nd Floor

3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

GMA Board of Directors' Meeting

Presiding: Kenneth Smith, Mayor, Kingsland-GMA President
Salon West, 2nd Floor

Sunday, January 25

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Registration

Second Floor

7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Orientation for First Time Attendees

All first time attendees and newly elected officials are invited to attend this session to learn more about what you should get out of the Mayors' Day Conference, what programs and services GMA offers and how to become more involved in GMA.

Ballroom, 2nd Floor

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Opening General Session

“Maintaining Quality of Life in a Down Economy”

“It’s the economy, it’s the economy, it’s the economy” is a term we have heard used repeatedly over the years in national political races. Well it is the economy – and it is affecting you personally and your city. It continues to drive down municipal revenues, depress housing values, cause unemployment and halt community growth. It also raises expectations of the continued delivery of essential local services. These bad economic times have for the first time in many years raised understanding of the connection between taxes and services. And this connection is in 20-20 focus at the city government level. This session will bring together a diverse group of private and public sector experts to discuss this changing economic environment and the importance of making decisions critical to maintaining the quality of life city residents expect and visitors and investors find attractive. Panelists will provide insight into possible actions city leaders can take to focus on the opportunities that lie ahead and not get lost in the “noise” of doomsday rhetoric. The challenges that face cities today are daunting but working in partnership with state and federal government leaders and the private sector, cities can re-emerge as the economic engines of the state once the inevitable economic recovery begins.

Presiding Officer: Bill Floyd, Mayor of Decatur
GMA First Vice President

Moderator: Richard Warner, Host and Managing Editor
“Georgia Business Report”, Georgia Public Broadcasting

Panelists:

Stacey Abrams, State Representative, District 84
Michael Thurmond, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Labor
Deke Copenhaver, Mayor, Augusta
Tad Liethead, Cousins Properties
Craig Lesser, Pendleton Consulting
Salon West, 2nd Floor

10:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

Policy Committee Meetings

The purpose of these committee meetings is to discuss legislative issues of interest to cities. The membership will use the meetings to review policy items adopted by city officials during the GMA Annual Convention. In addition, the committee members will hear from local and state elected and appointed officials regarding their thoughts on the 2009 legislative session and other pertinent issues.

Community Development

Chair: Edna Jackson, Mayor Pro Tem, Savannah

Is your city experiencing the negative impacts of a slowing economy through an increase in abandoned homes and buildings? The Community Development Policy Committee will learn the basics of foreclosure so you can better prepare your community for an increase in foreclosed properties. You will hear how cities around Georgia are coping with abandoned houses and cleaning up vacant property in an effort to minimize the effect of these properties. The federal government has authorized the distribution of \$153 million dollars in Georgia to address neighborhood revitalization in the wake of the foreclosure crisis. Learn how your city can become eligible to receive these funds! We will also review the Community Development policies for the upcoming 2009 legislative session.

Speakers: Jim Elliott, City Attorney, Warner Robins
Brad Sears, City Attorney, Newnan
Brian Williamson, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Community Affairs

Staff Contact: Marcia Rubensohn, Legislative Affairs Counsel
Salon C, 2nd Floor

Municipal Government

Chair: Pat Graham, Mayor, Braselton

With the legislative session just underway, we will hear from a leading legislator about various proposals that may impact local governments ranging from tax limitations and home rule restrictions to utility and ethics issues. The committee will also hear from an expert from the University of Georgia regarding changing demographics and the impact on city management and decision-making.

Speakers: Senator David Shafer
Jeffrey H. Dorfman, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Applied
Economics, University of Georgia

Staff Contact: Lamar Norton, Director, Governmental Relations
Salon B, 2nd Floor

Transportation

Chair: Boyd Austin, Mayor, Dallas

A panel of transportation experts, a state legislator, and members of the DOT Board will engage in a discussion of transportation issues of interest to local governments. Panelists will update committee members on DOT programs and procedures that will impact cities, discuss the role of commuter rail and transit in meeting statewide transportation needs, and comment on possible transportation funding solutions that may be considered in the 2009 legislative session.

Speakers: State Representative Donna Sheldon
Brandon L. Beach, Member, State Transportation Board
Dana Lemon, Member, State Transportation Board
Steve Farrow, Member, State Transportation Board
Emory Morsberger, CEO, Morsberger Group

Staff Contact: Becky Taylor, Research & Federal Relations Manager, GMA
Salon A, 2nd Floor

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Awards Luncheon

Presiding

Kenneth Smith, Mayor, Kingsland-GMA President

National Anthem

Invocation

Margaret Evans, Mayor, Sylvania

Lunch

Executive Director's Remarks

Jim Higdon, Executive Director

2008 Mayors' Christmas Motorcade Report

Billy Trapnell, Mayor, Metter – GMA Third Vice President and 2008 Statewide
Motorcade Chairman

Preview of February 2009 Issue of *Georgia Trend*

Neely Young, Editor in Chief and Publisher, *Georgia Trend*

Certified Cities of Ethics Presentation

Deke Copenhaver, Mayor, Augusta – Chair, GMA Ethics Task Force

Training Certificate Presentation

Dr. Steve Wrigley, Director, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia
Jim Stephens, Associate Director, Governmental Education, Training and Development,
Carl Vinson Institute of Government, university of Georgia

Sponsored by: The Coca Cola Company
Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Policy Committee Meetings

Environment and Natural Resources

Chair: Ken Turner, Mayor, Gordon

With the 2009 legislative session underway, this meeting will provide an opportunity to review administrative, legislative and budget developments that impact environment policy in the state. Environmental Protection Division Director Dr. Carol Couch will discuss the process that the newly appointed regional water councils will follow as the regional work of the state's water planning effort gets underway. Part of the discussion will include details of how all cities, regardless of whether a city has a representative on a particular water council, can participate in their region's planning process.

Speaker: Dr. Carol Couch, Director, Environmental Protection Division

Staff Contact: Tom Gehl, Deputy Director, Governmental Relations
Salon A, 2nd Floor

Public Safety

Chair: John Reid, Mayor, Eatonton

Don't Swipe our Pipe! Metal theft has become a plague on Georgia's cities. Manhole covers, electric copper wiring, and even light poles are being stolen from cities and turned into cash at secondary metal recycling centers. The committee will discuss efforts to change state law and restore home rule so that cities can more effectively combat the problem. The committee will also review pending public safety legislation and issues in the 2009 legislative session.

Speaker: Philip K. Peacock, Manager of Investigations, Georgia Power Corporate Security

Staff Contact: Ted Baggett, Deputy General Counsel
Salon B, 2nd Floor

Revenue and Finance

Chair: Mike Bodker, Mayor, Johns Creek

The Revenue and Finance Committee will discuss legislation affecting city revenue sources, particularly proposed assessment cap legislation and a proposal to privatize the collection of local sales taxes. Members will have the opportunity to hear about the impact of assessment caps and other property tax limitations that have been enacted in other states and will hear from the Finance Officer of Opelika, Alabama about the history of and benefits for local governments from private sales tax collections there. Members will also review and finalize the 2009 legislative policies.

Speakers: Mike Moore, Finance Officer, Opelika, Alabama
Dr. David Sjoquist, Fiscal Research Center, Georgia State University

Staff Contact: Gwin Hall, Legislative and Regulatory Counsel
Salon C, 2nd Floor

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

Legislative Policy Council Meeting

The Legislative Policy Council will meet immediately following the conclusion of GMA's six policy committee meetings. The LPC will hear reports from policy committee chairs and consider any adjustments needed to GMA's 2009 Legislative Policies and also discuss the 2009 legislative strategies.

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

Staff Contact : Kelly Shields, Legal and Legislative Policy Coordinator
Carter/Jackson/Madison/Monroe Room, 3rd Floor

Monday, January 26

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

Registration

7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Legislative Issues Breakfast

Presiding: Kenneth Smith, Mayor, Kingsland-GMA President

Invocation: Willie Edmondson, Councilmember, LaGrange; Pastor, Bethlehem Baptist Church
Breakfast

Welcome

Shirley Franklin, Mayor, Atlanta-GMA Immediate Past President

Introduction of Speakers

Ken Steele, Mayor, Fayetteville – GMA Second Vice President

Perspectives on the 2009 Session of the Georgia General Assembly

Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle

Speaker Glenn Richardson

Perspectives on the 111th Congress

Congressman Jack Kingston, First District

Congressman Sanford Bishop, Second District

Sponsored by: Camp Dresser & McKee and Georgia Power Company

Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

District Caucuses

Each district will meet in caucus to discuss a number of items, including recently completed district meetings, successful Hometown Connection sessions and the Mayors' Motorcade. Current and upcoming GMA programs will also be discussed, including the "If I Were Mayor Essay Contest" and Georgia Cities Week. Of course, we'll also talk about the 2009 legislative session and how to get and stay involved, as well as other items unique to each district. Come prepared to participate and discuss activities and issues that concern your city!

District One

Cherokee Room, 2nd Floor

District Two

Monroe Room, 3rd Floor

District Three

Fayette/Newton Room, 2nd Floor

District Four

Forsythe Room, 2nd Floor

District Five

Rockdale Room, 2nd Floor

District Six

Walton Room, 2nd Floor

District Seven

Henry Room, 2nd Floor

District Eight

Gwinnett Room, 2nd Floor

District Nine

Douglas Room, 2nd Floor

District Ten

Paulding Room, 2nd Floor

District Eleven

Carter Room, 3rd Floor

District Twelve

Jackson Room, 3rd Floor

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Urban City Training Focus Group

Madison Room, 3rd Floor

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

DCA Mainstreet/Better Hometown Awards Luncheon (by invitation only)

Crystal Ballroom

12:30pm-1:45pm

Atlanta Regional Commission Mega Region Luncheon (by invitation only)

Fayette/Newton

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Defined Contribution/Deferred Compensation Board of Trustees

Presiding: Beth English, Councilmember, Vienna

Madison Room, 3rd Floor

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Continuous shuttle bus service to the Capitol will begin departing the Hilton at 2:30pm for visits with your legislators. You may catch the shuttle from 4:30pm-5:30pm at the Capitol to go to the 755 Club at Turner Field. To catch the shuttle, please go to the front lobby and a representative from the bus company (Event Transportation) will be there to direct you.

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

Shuttle service directly from the Hilton to the 755 Club- To catch the shuttle, please go to the front lobby and a representative from the bus company (Event Transportation) will be there to direct you.

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Doors will not open until 5:00 p.m.)

Reception Honoring the 2009 Members of the General Assembly

755 Club, Turner Field

6:00 p.m. - 6:40 p.m.

Shuttle service will start back to the Hilton, with stops at the Capitol for legislators.