



Community Bankers Association
"Doing our Part...and More."

CBA TODAY

February 10, 2006

Issue 3

A STATEWIDE PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA

2006 Spring Convention -- Deadline for Room Reservations is One Week Away!

March 19 - 22, 2006, The Ritz-Carlton Lodge
Greensboro



The elegant Ritz-Carlton Lodge at Reynolds Plantation is the location for CBA's 2006 Spring Convention to be held March 19 - 22, 2006. This is a great location to travel - not too far from home but still feel worlds away with the historic beauty of Lake Oconee.

CEOs, senior management, directors and associate members are invited to attend this convention to exchange ideas with col-

leagues and hear prominent speakers address current and emerging issues. Spouses are invited to attend all receptions and dinners and any business sessions of interest to them, but there will also be plenty of time to relax...

The 26,000 square-foot Ritz-Carlton Lodge Spa was ranked No. 4, on the list of "Top Resort Spas in the United States and Canada" by *Travel + Leisure*. This spa rejuvenates guests with southern-inspired service and nature-inspired treatments. The Spa features 19 tranquil treatment rooms, including one couples suite, four wet treatment rooms, saunas, steam rooms and whirlpools and a full-service salon.

The area also features four of the country's most revered golf courses. Rees Jones, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Fazio and Bob Cupp have contributed their design expertise to the land surrounding The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation, creating one of the United States' premier golf destinations.

Whatever you enjoy, you can find it at the Ritz! The deadline for room reservations is February 17, 2006 so call the Ritz at (800) 241-3333 or (706) 467-0600 and reserve your room today! Register for the convention at www.cbaofga.com and reserve your spot at CBA's 2006 Spring Convention!



The Annual Leadership Division North PAC/PR Golf Tournament

April 18, 2006, BridgeMill Athletic Club
Canton



TEAMS ARE FILLING UP QUICKLY...REGISTER TODAY!

The Annual Leadership Division North PAC/PR Golf Tournament is a great way to network with other community bankers and benefit a great cause. Proceeds go to the CBA Political Action Committee (PAC) and Public Relations (PR) funds. The funds provide Georgia's community banking industry a voice in state politics. CBA maintains the only state PAC working exclusively for community banks.

This year's golf tournament will be held at the phenomenal BridgeMill Golf Course in Canton. This championship course is designed by world-renowned golf course architect, Desmond Muirhead, and Georgia's own 1987 Master's Champion and touring pro, Larry Mize. This 7,000-yard golf course covers more than 250 acres, creating a course that is more expansive and more beautiful than the typical golf course.

For more information or to register, contact Jason Pruitt at Jason@cbaofga.com.



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Community Bankers Association of Georgia

"Doing our Part...and More."

PLEASE ROUTE TO:

Member Mentions

Michael W. Knowles, CEO/President, **NorthWest Bank & Trust, Acworth**, recently celebrated the grand opening of its newly constructed headquarters.

Don Howard, CEO, **Bank of North Georgia, Alpharetta**, announced the promotion of **Maura A. McKenna** to Senior Vice President in the Private Client Services division. Also, **Sherri Morgan**, Director of Marketing was promoted to Senior Vice President.

J. Thomas Wiley, CEO/President, **Flag Bank, Atlanta**, announces the recent hirings of **John D. Melvin** as Senior Vice President, Commercial Deposit Services (Atlanta); **John B. Bearden**, Vice President, Correspondent Banking (Atlanta); **Ian Chen**, Branch Manager (Norcross); and **Bruce Emfinger**, Commercial & Construction Lending Specialist (LaGrange). Also, the following were recently promoted: **Karin A. Teague**, Vice President, Operations (Atlanta); **Shirley Ammons**, Assistant Vice President, Operations (Atlanta); and **Diana Diggs**, Assistant Vice President, Operations (Atlanta).

John H. Monk, Jr., CEO/President, **First Port City Bank, Bainbridge**, recently announced Directors **Sam M. Griffin, Jr.** and **Alec L. Pointevint** were named to *Georgia Trend* magazine's list of 100 Most Influential Georgians.

Michael L. McPherson, CEO/President, **Unity National Bank, Cartersville**, announces a branch of the bank will open in Calhoun in June 2006. Also, **Stanley Taylor** has joined the bank as Vice President Commercial Loan Officer and **Martha Darby** as Vice President Loan Officer. **Michelle Bailey** was recently promoted to Vice President, Loan Operations Officer and **Teresa Brown** was named Retail Banking Officer.

Joe Briner, CEO/President, **Alpha Bank & Trust (proposed), Alpharetta**, announces **Mike Sleeth** has joined the bank as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.



Success Through Knowledge UPCOMING CLASSES AND INFORMATION

CBA's 2006 Information Technology (IT) Conference

Thursday - Friday, March 9 - 10, 2006, SecureWorks Headquarters, Atlanta

CBA is pleased to partner with our endorsed member, **SecureWorks**, an internet security service company, to provide this informative and timely conference designed specifically for community banks. During the conference, you will learn the latest in security trends, bank regulations and best practices in order to be proactive at protecting your bank's assets and your customers from fraudulent activity.

A few other highlights of the conference will be an IT roundtable discussion with several IT officers from our family of community banks and a special tour of the SecureWorks Security Operations Center. Don't miss this opportunity to get a rare look at what goes on behind the scenes of a 24x7x365 client network monitoring facility. This guided tour will show you real time response and blocking of attacks, comprehensive reporting and sophisticated equipment aimed at an in-depth defense against network intrusions. You may register online at www.cbaofga.com or contact Jodi Swilley at Jodi@cbaofga.com for more information!

CBA NEWS

Upcoming Bank Directors' Seminars

CBA has some great educational programs for Bank Directors coming soon. We hope you will present these opportunities to your Board of Directors and invite them to attend one or all of these great educational offerings!

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES & LIABILITIES MADE PLAIN & SIMPLE

Tuesday, February 28, 2006 - Telephone/Webcast

Speaker: Ann Brode, Brode Consulting

Bank directors are no longer just figureheads for the bank; not just important representation from the community. They are this and so much more. They are responsible for the strategic direction of the bank, its profitability, and its safety and soundness. And with these responsibilities comes liability. And the bank's regulatory agency expects so much more from our directors. Therefore, this session is meant to discuss all of the important roles and responsibilities of the directorate. We will point out the liabilities involved in this important job and how to minimize that liability.

SPRING CONVENTION & BANK DIRECTORS' SESSION

March 19 - 22, 2006 - Reynolds Plantation, Greensboro

CBA understands that continuing education for community bank directors and senior management is crucial in today's competitive marketplace so all attendees will have the opportunity to hear an impressive array of speakers at the Convention and Directors' Seminar.

Matt Schriener, Managing Director of Sheshunoff Management Services, Austin, Texas, will present "Regulatory Changes and the Impact on the Board." You will obtain an extensive overview of the most recent regulatory changes and how they will affect your bank.

Jim Reber, Independent Community Bankers Association of America (ICBAA) Securities, will present a session this year on "High Performance Bank Portfolios." Bank investment portfolio performance can almost always be traced to three or four characteristics. Jim will describe these factors, analyze the composition of a well-structured portfolio, and discuss the risks inherent in portfolios, especially one with a higher than average yield.

Register for the Bank Directors' Seminar Only, the Directors' Seminar & Sunday Night Reception & Dinner, or the Directors' Seminar & Convention, but make sure to reserve your space soon! Register at www.cbaofga.com or contact any CBA staff member.

COMPENSATION TRENDS, BEST PRACTICES AND BOARD COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 30, 2006 - JHTC at CBA Headquarters, Atlanta

CBA is pleased to announce plans for the 2006 Bank Directors' Continuing Education Series (BDCES) - Classroom Program. In 2006 we plan to offer several classroom seminars regarding such topics as Compensation Strategies, Compliance for Directors, and other timely "hot topics" that are best suited for a classroom environment.

On March 30th, CBA is proud to partner with Clark Consulting, a CBA endorsed member, to provide the first 2006 classroom seminar regarding the important topic **Compensation Trends, Best Practices and Board Compensation Committee**. Register today and come gain a good understanding of market competitive compensation programs that are designed to attract, motivate and retain the best employees! And, learn "best practices" with respect to compensation committees.

For more information on bank director training, please contact Jodi Swilley at jodi@cbaofga.com. Or, visit our website at www.cbaofga.com.

Proactive Tools for the Fight Against Identity Theft & Fraud

Things move fast these days. Technology has sped up the exchange and transfer of information. However, a recent survey shows that over 30 percent of identity theft victims noticed a discrepancy in monitoring of accounts through viewing paper statements and documents. This method allows up to 30 days (or more, if you don't open and review your mailed statements immediately) of criminal activity to take place before the victim even notices.

Consumers can protect themselves from identity theft and other forms of fraud and loss by utilizing the latest online features offered by their financial institutions, credit card companies and other financial services firms. Specifically, **eStatements** and **email alerts** are Internet banking features that can help consumers be proactive in monitoring their financial activity.

eStatement, delivery of banking statements online, reduces the time that account holders' sensitive data spends in the mail system and eliminates the possibility of mail being stolen out of their mailboxes. With eStatements, accountholders can review their monthly statement immediately after the closing date for early reconciliation and identify any inaccuracies.

Email alerts are another very useful tool for minimizing fraud. A recent survey by Forrester Research shows that a growing number of online consumers welcome email alerts from their financial institutions - if those alerts provide information consumers want. Forrester says preference-based alerts in three categories are most likely to attract more online users' attention, including:

- *Preemptive alerts* enable your accountholders to take actions such as circumventing fees, paying bills or transferring money from one account to another.
- *Account-based alerts* let your accountholders check on the status of anticipated funds, make sure a check has cleared, or otherwise monitor their money.
- *Product-purchase alerts* provide your accountholders with requested information about products or services, or notify them of a drop in loan rates.

Consumer education is another very important part of reducing ID theft and fraud within your account base. Your financial institution should provide online and offline messaging to your account holders, cautioning them against putting ANY personal data into an email or onto any Web site links provided via email.

Regardless of the amount of consumer education you provide, phishers and fraudsters are increasingly shifting their methods. Thus fraud prevention features, such as eStatements and Email Alerts that allow consumers to know as soon as possible of any discrepancies or unusual activity, are a must-have for financial institutions trying to keep their account holders online and loyal to their brand.

Submitted by Greg Constantine, EVP, FundsXpress Financial Network, Inc., a CBA Endorsed Member Company

VICTORY! Congress Sends ICBA Priority FDIC Reforms to President

In passing a massive \$39 billion budget reconciliation bill this week, the House gave final approval to Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA)-backed deposit insurance reform legislation that will modernize the Federal Deposit Insurance system. Deposit insurance reform was incorporated into the high priority budget bill last year. ICBA has been working on this legislation with the bill's chief sponsors, Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) in the House and Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD) in the Senate, as well as others, for more than six years. The bill now goes to the White House, where the President has indicated he will sign it into law.

This is a major achievement for ICBA and community bankers. "This measure strengthens the nation's deposit insurance system and offers the nation's communities and consumers even greater stability in our financial system," said David Hayes, ICBA chairman, and president and CEO of Security Bank in Dyersburg, Tenn. "Importantly, the legislation will encourage depositors to keep their money in local banks where it can be lent out to build and support local communities."

Visit <http://www.icba.org/news/newsreleasedetail.cfm?ItemNumber=17733&sn.ItemNumber=1733> for more information on how this legislation will impact your bank.

IMPORTANT! ICBA Needs Your Input on Commercial Real Estate Lending Guidance

Bank regulators are seeking comments on guidance that would require banks with concentrations in commercial real estate lending (CRE) to tighten risk management practices and potentially increase capital. **The proposal is likely to disproportionately affect community banks with less than \$1 billion in assets.** Banks with 100% or more of capital in construction, land development and land loans, or 300% or more of capital in multifamily and nonfarm nonresidential property loans, and construction, land development and land loans, will be affected. The guidance says banks with CRE concentrations need robust risk-management systems and capital levels higher than regulatory minimums to account for the risk. The proposed guidance addresses board and management oversight, strategic planning, underwriting practices, risk assessment and management, and capital adequacy.

To help Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) comment on the proposal, we need to hear how it will affect your bank. A summary of the proposed guidance and a questionnaire are posted on ICBA's homepage, www.icba.org. Please take a few minutes to give us your thoughts.



McMillian & Associates, Inc. - CBA Tax Credit Program

McMillian & Associates, Inc. (McA) specializes in state and federal tax credits and other incentives for banks. Over 30 years of tax credit experience has increased the profitability of all bank clients throughout Georgia. The full range of McA cost effective tax credit services for banks produces more tax credits for every bank. A state of the art processing system minimizes the time involved to secure the most widely used program, the Retraining Tax Credit. This newest technology in processing was recently installed in our own newly constructed building in downtown LaGrange. McA handles all research, documents all program information, and obtains state approval for all tax credit programs for banks. Contact Terry McMillian at (706) 302-7725 or tgds@bellsouth.net.



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UPCOMING EVENTS 2006

HMDA: Last Chance to Review & Test Your Data

February 13 - Telephone/Webcast

Business Development I & II

February 14-15 - Macon

Business Continuity Planning/Disaster Recovery

February 15 - Macon

Collecting from Past Due Customers

February 16 - Telephone/Webcast

Bank Security Workshop

February 16 - Macon

Identifying Potential Problem Loans

February 16 - Macon

Supervisory Management Series: Workshop I

February 16 - Macon

Bank Directors' College: Session I

February 17 - 18 - St. Simons Island

Presidents Day

February 20

Flood Compliance: Getting it Right!

February 22 - Telephone/Webcast

Personnel & HR Management Series: Workshop I

February 23 - Macon

Safe Deposit Basics

February 23 - Macon

De Novo Bank Conference

February 27 - 28, Amelia Island, FL

Cash Flow: When Enough is Enough

February 28 - Macon

FMF Dinner

February 28 - Atlanta

Directors' Telephone Series: Session I - Roles & Responsibilities

February 28 - Telephone/Webcast

New OFAC Compliance & Exam Issues

March 2 - Telephone/Webcast

Bank Officer Call Training Program

March 2 - Macon

"Growing Success" Marketing Conference

March 2 - 3, Adairsville

Mortgage Lending School

March 6 - 10, Marietta

IRA Essentials

March 7 - Atlanta

Loan Portfolio Management

March 7 - Tifton

Check Fraud & Forgery

March 7 - Telephone/Webcast

Spring Convention

The Ritz Carlton Lodge at Reynolds Plantation, Greensboro, GA
March 19 - 22

28th Annual Leadership Division Convention & Mini-Trade Show

Westin Resort, Hilton Head Island, SC
June 21 - 25

38th Annual Convention & Trade Show

Fairmont Orchid, Hawaii (The Big Island)
July 19 - 23



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