

**July 11 – 14
2023**

**Executive
Leadership
Conference**



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

2023 GACCE Executive Leadership Conference



Amity Farrar
POWER 10
afarrar@gopower10.com

Amity Farrar is the Executive Vice President for POWER 10, a national capital campaign management firm specializing in campaigns to fund economic and community development initiatives led by chambers, economic development initiatives and community nonprofits. Amity is a Labor / Employment Law Attorney (UGA) and University of Michigan graduate with 14 years in the practice of law, and a decade in fundraising and capital campaign management; multi-campaign winner and emerging industry leader; twin citizenship (U.S. and U.K.), twin kids, two pups, one husband, and a whole lotta iron fist in a velvet glove!



Ali Rauch
Opelika (AL) Chamber
ali@opelikachamber.com

Ali Rauch serves as the President & CEO of the Opelika (AL) Chamber. She comes all the way from Paris, Illinois with a passion for positivity, small business, and of course, Opelika! Ali has an associate degree in Communication from Lake Land College, and a Bachelor's in Public Relations from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She has worked for a variety of small businesses, many times as a jack-of-all-trades. Most notably, Ali served as the Director of Marketing at Chicken Salad Chick and helped grow that small business from only 3 locations to 160 locations. She is an avid reader and huge Packers & Auburn Football fan.

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Dave Kilby

President Emeritus of W.A.C.E.

dave.kilby6812@gmail.com

President Emeritus of the Western Association of Chamber Executives (W.A.C.E.) Served as Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs for California Chamber and President/CEO of W.A.C.E. for 34 years. Author of the book *“Chamber Champions: Wisdom for the Ages”* which was released in April 2019. For 11 years he served as the California Chamber’s lobbyist on small business, economic development, housing and land use issues. Prior to joining the California Chamber, he had a successful career in local chamber management as CEO of the Modesto (CA) Chamber. He is a former Chair of US Chamber’s Western Institute, and member of the US Chamber’s Committee of 100 and their Political Advocacy Committee. He is a self-described movie, Disney & trivia nut and is a poli-holic (Yes – he actually likes politics). Dave and his wife Kim are on a never-ending search for the perfect India Pale Ale (IPA).



Seth Millican

Georgia Chamber

smillican@gatransportation.org

As the executive director of the Georgia Transportation Alliance (GTA), Seth operates as the Chamber’s resident expert on all things transportation and infrastructure. Seth brings over 15 years of experience in politics and government, and has helped lead several significant policy initiatives including the Transportation Funding Act of 2015 and the creation of the ATL in 2018.

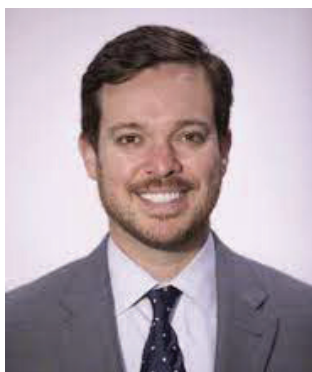
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Brince Manning
U.S. Chamber
bmanning@uschamber.com

Brince Manning is a manager of the Southeastern Region for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Manning supports the congressional and public affairs for eight southeastern states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Before joining the U.S. Chamber, Manning served as the Manager of Government Affairs for the JAX Chamber in Jacksonville, FL, where he worked to advance the legislative priorities of Northeast Florida on the local, state and federal levels. Previously, he managed a campaign for Congressman Lynn Westmoreland and worked for Georgia's Secretary of State Brian Kemp. Manning lives in Atlanta and has been involved in regional politics since he graduated from the University of North Georgia.



Carl Nicpon
Brio Business Academy
cnicpon@briobusinessacademy.com

Carl is the founder and CEO of Brio Business Academy. He created Brio because he believed it shouldn't be so hard to be a small business owner. Since 2010, Carl teaches as an Adjunct Professor in the MBA programs at the University of Georgia and consults with entrepreneurs to transform their businesses. He has also owned, operated, and sold a successful 3rd generation family business that employed over 200 people. Connect with Carl if you want help developing an integrated strategy, leading a generative and inspired organization, or enhancing your customer experience.

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Cedric King
Kings Consulting
cedking72@icloud.com

Cedric King first became involved with the Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce in the early 2000s when he worked for Pinova. Two decades later, he started a year-long term in July 2022 as chamber chairman, and the chamber's first African-American chairman. Prior to his appointment, he served on the board of directors as vice chair of internal affairs and last year as chairman-elect. King also serves on the Glynn County Airport Commission, College of Coastal Georgia Trustee Foundation and Communities in Schools of Glynn Advisory Board. King is a businessman with businesses in Brunswick and Darien. He also serves as a benefits consultant with Lighthouse Benefit Advisors on St. Simons Island. He was selected to the Leadership Georgia Class of 2019, and he has completed Leadership programs in Glynn and McIntosh counties and graduated with the 2018 Class of Leadership Southeast Georgia.



Philip "Phil" Polk
National Center for Civil and Human Rights
ceophilpolk@gmail.com

Philip Polk, an executive with more than 22 years of marketing leadership experience, serves as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lead for the National Center of Civil and Human Rights. In this role, Philip is responsible for developing, educating, training and consulting with corporations, educational institutions and National Government Organizations on diversity, equity and inclusion topics and issues. Previously, Philip served as the Chief Diversity Officer for Hallmark Cards, Inc. where he launched Hallmark's Diversity and Inclusion department. Prior to his D&I roles, Philip committed over 2 decades in a variety of marketing leadership roles of increasing responsibility for Procter and Gamble, Coca-Cola, Walt Disney World Parks and Resorts and Cox Communications. He has an extensive marketing background in brand management, customer acquisition and retention, direct response marketing and advertising in addition to DE&I. Phil earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Texas A&M University and a master's degree in business administration from Clark Atlanta University.

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Ralph Staffins III

Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber
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Ralph Staffins was named the President and CEO of the Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce in June 2019. He currently serves on the Coastal Pines Technical College Board, GEDA Board of Directors, has served twice as Chair of the Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, and serves on the Board of Governors for the Georgia Chamber. During his time in the Golden Isles, Ralph proudly led the Chamber to earning its 5-Star accreditation with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In 2021, Ralph was recognized by Georgia Trend Magazine as one of the Top 40 under 40. He previously served as the President & CEO of the Covington-Newton County Chamber and the Executive Director of Forward McDuffie. Ralph graduated from the Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville in 2006 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and earned a Master's degree in Public Administration in 2008. He is designated by the IEDC as a certified economic development professional.



Sheree Anne Kelly

Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE)
skelly@acce.org

Sheree Anne is the head of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) representing more than 10,000 industry professionals. Previously, Sheree Anne was senior vice president of the Public Affairs Council and executive director of their foundation. During her 16 years at the global association, she served as chief public affairs expert, and oversaw thought leadership, professional development, consulting and benchmarking. During her tenure, she opened the Council's first international office in Brussels. Prior roles include positions in government affairs at the National Association of Home Builders, and on the corporate development and corporate relations teams at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Sheree Anne holds an MBA from Georgetown, a Master of Arts in Government from Johns Hopkins, and a Bachelor of Arts from Bucknell University. Current industry leadership roles include serving on the executive committee of the World Chambers Federation and as a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Chamber Committee of 100. She's also a board member of the Engalitcheff Institute on Comparative Political and Economic Systems and immediate past-chair of the Bucknell Institute for Public Policy.