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SKIDAWAY HAMILTONS

A nonpartisan, civic-minded men's organization

President's Message

I hope you are enjoying the summer break, whether you are traveling or relaxing at home.

It has been quite a spring and summer in our country. The Supreme Court has once again ruled against some of the established precedents that were hard won when they were instituted. Everywhere we look, we are surrounded by the far right agenda, and it is only going to get more stressful as the 2024 primary season heats up.

All of this continues to increase the polarization of our community into opposing factions and it is more and more difficult to find common ground with many of our neighbors. *It is more important than ever to have an organization like the Skidaway Hamiltons, where men who share common values can connect with other like-minded men.*

As you will see in this newsletter, we had another year of outstanding programming. We are hard at work to bring you relevant programming in a venue that allows for interaction with the speakers and each other. Our new program season and membership year starts in September.

On July 1, 2023 the new Board of Directors began its one year term. First, I'd like to thank the outgoing Board members for their excellent work and dedication to the organization.

My sincere gratitude goes to outgoing Program Co-Chairs Jim Waterman and Bruce Walker, Secretary Bruce Wallace, and Treasurer Martin Halper.

President - Marty Grossman
Secretary and Treasurer - Mark Wojciechowski
Membership Chair - David Panitch
Program Chair - Bruce Strugatch
IT/Website Chair - Rick Cunningham
Public Relations Chair - Ron Krannich
At-large - Alan Mills

We are looking forward to seeing you in September!

Marty Grossman

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Skidaway Hamiltons in Review, 2022-2023

This past year we had speakers on a variety of interesting topics that primarily focused on local issues.

Chairman Chester Ellis and Commissioner Patrick Farrell Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Addressed major issues impacting Chatham County including Skidaway Island. Answered pointed questions from our members.

Clark Alexander, Director and Professor of the UGA Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, and Alan W. Robertson, Principal, AWR Strategic Consulting

Provided a fascinating and informative program on how Sea Level Rise and Climate Change are altering our relationship with the Coastal Environment and what local communities can and are doing about it!

Patti Lyons

President/CEO of Senior Citizens, Inc.

Ms. Lyons has a unique perspective on the issue of aging, having been the President of the Senior Citizens, Inc (SCI) for twenty-five years. She believes the key is providing a continuum of care while allowing people to live at home. SCI has been doing just that for years. Importantly, as a private, local non-profit organization, SCI has been able to pursue

columns of life: mind, body, spirit and community.

Justice Unites Savannah Together (JUST)

Rabbi Robert Haas, Congregation Mickve Israel, Savannah

Many congregants at churches, synagogues, and mosques do volunteer work in their communities through soup kitchens, housing efforts, and other community-based social action organizations. But never in his long experience in Houston and other places had congregants become involved in social justice initiatives, i.e. in efforts to make long-term positive changes for those in need through legislation and government policy changes. This is because a single congregation, even a very large one, does not have the power by itself to effectively advocate for such changes. **JUST has several dozen leaders of local houses of worship from across the religious spectrum working together for positive change in our community.**

The Opioid Crisis and Fentanyl

Michael Sarhatt Director of the Chatham Savannah Counter Narcotics Team

Opioids slow the respiratory system down. Fentanyl can shut it down and kill instantly. In 2021, there were over 100,000 opioid overdose deaths. It is the #1 cause of death for people between 19 and 45. The fentanyl epidemic is far more deadly than previous drug epidemics because with fentanyl there may be no time for recovery. They CNT is no longer seeing heroin on the street. Fentanyl is being sold cut with fillers like beef tenderizer.

The nasal spray Narcan can be used to reverse an opioid overdose. It blocks the effects of the opioid on the brain and can restore breathing. All emergency medical professionals carry Narcan. The CNT is training 350 officers on the use of Narcan.

Savannah Ghost Pirates: Coastal Georgia's New Professional Ice Hockey Team Comes To Town!

Representatives of the Ghost Pirates joined the Skidaway Hamiltons to share their passion for introducing, promoting, and growing professional ice hockey in Savannah. Their presentation found an enthusiastic crowd of sports fans among our members and guests who support such community development efforts.

The Power of Community - TEDX Savannah and Ideas Worth Spreading

Brian Judson, Best Business Brokers and Clinton Edminster, Owner Starlandia Supply and Waters Cafe

Spring Men's Social event

Was a fantastic opportunity to have open and candid conversations without any negativity and meet some great guys. The informal social was held at a board members home and was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Summaries of the above programs and others are available on our website, SkidawayHamiltons.org .

Moving Forward

We will continue to hold our meetings at the Messiah Lutheran Church on Skidaway Island starting in September on the third Tuesday of every month at 3:30PM. In addition, we will have several evening meetings to accommodate our working members.

We are looking forward to another productive year focused on issues relevant us. We are in the process of finalizing the next few months of guest speakers who will be coming to address our group.

Wrapping Up

We also welcome your feedback, recommendations, and involvement with the Hamiltons. Please contact us if you know someone who would be an excellent speaker for our group.

We welcome your ideas and feedback. Email us at SkidawayHamiltons@gmail.com .

Our membership year runs from September 2023 through August 2024 and dues are \$30.00.

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