

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Georgia Chamber President Speaks to South Georgia Government and Business Leaders

The Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce South Georgia Partnership for Regional Development (SGPRD) and the State Legislative Committee of the Government Affairs Council will host **George Israel III, President and CEO of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Monday, August 11, at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center.** The day's events kick-off at 11:00 AM with a State Legislative Outlook, followed by a SGPRD lunch at noon featuring Mr. Israel as the keynote speaker.

The State Legislative Outlook will consist of a 30 minute overview of Israel's 2009 forecast for the legislative horizon. Guests will have one-on-one time with the Georgia Chamber president, giving them a chance to ask their questions and have their opinions heard.

Directly following the Outlook will be a quarterly lunch meeting for the South Georgia Partnership for Regional Development featuring Mr. Israel as the keynote speaker. Israel has more than 25 years experience as a chief executive officer with organizations in government, real estate sales, property management and managed health care. Israel will speak about how our region might more effectively work together with government affairs, as well as big picture issues such as water, transportation, and education that could be address regionally, therefore, having a much louder voice.

The South Georgia Partnership for Regional Development was created earlier this year as an initiative of IMPACT 2012. Our goal is to bring South Georgia leaders together on a quarterly basis to give you the opportunity to network, identify common challenges within the region that can be overcome by working together, and to identify common opportunities that can translate into economic growth for the region. The South Georgia Partnership for Regional Development wants to promote a spirit of partnership among our counties in the region's business development efforts.

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“If just one good idea for regional development comes from the leaders seated at just one table in this room, said Ken Stewart, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. “Then the effort to bring all of you together will have been worth it.”

More than 100 elected officials and private business leaders from six counties attended the June lunch meeting of the South Georgia Partnership for Regional Development. Our regional chambers and the South Georgia Regional Development Center are committed to continuing these meetings on a quarterly basis. Anyone in your county who is interested in regional economic development is welcome to join us. Just notify your local chamber president to add someone to our invitation list.

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