



Join your county colleagues in Savannah/Chatham County for education, networking, and fellowship as we highlight ways you can showcase all you do for your citizens.

Learn how you can help your county shine in 2016!

2016 Annual Conference
Savannah International Trade
and Convention Center
Savannah/Chatham County
April 29-May 2

Conference Highlights

- + Friday Opening General Session and Luncheon featuring “head coach” Dr. Kevin Elko
- + Saturday Keynote Awards Luncheon highlighted by the “Off Balance On Purpose” performance of Dan Thurmon
- + Continuing Education Sessions on community health and on county preparedness with GEMA/Homeland Security Director Jim Butterworth
- + Possible mini field trips including visits to the Georgia Ports Authority Port of Savannah, the UGA Marine Extension Shellfish Research Laboratory and hot topic sessions at the Convention Center
- + Seventeen opportunities to participate in the ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy, enhanced educational opportunities for your county clerk, and section sessions designed specifically for your county manager and attorney
- + Saturday night’s “Dancing with the Stars” featuring the Rivertown Band
- + Opportunities to meet with the ACCG Youth Caucus
- + The County Buyers Mart and County Agents’ Farm House

You’ll find a tentative agenda at the end of this information!

REGISTRATION OPTIONS FOR COUNTY MEMBERS

Conference Registration Package \$650 covers admission to the section meetings for clerks, managers/administrators, and attorneys, the County Buyers Mart, all banquet and entertainment events, all continuing education events and a Friday or Monday Lifelong Learning Academy class.

Conference Registration Package \$880 covers admission to the section meetings for clerks, managers/administrators, and attorneys, the County Buyers Mart, all banquet and entertainment events, all continuing education events and a Friday and Monday Lifelong Learning Academy class.

Spouse or Guest Registration Package \$350 includes all banquet and entertainment events, and admission to the County Buyers Mart (section meetings are not included) - for attendees accompanying those registered for a full conference package.

REGISTRATION FOR OTHER ATTENDEES

Other Attendee Registration \$500 is for individuals not affiliated with county governments and includes all conference events except training classes on April 29 and May 2. Please note: this registration package is not available to county members. Please use this link to register: [Registration for Non-Member Attendees](#)

Section Meetings

for county managers/administrators, county clerks and county attorneys will be on Friday, April 29, at 2:00 p.m. at the Westin Savannah Harbor next to the SITCC. These meetings for these groups are included with your full conference registration package. If you are not planning to register for the entire conference, the registration fee for attending the section meetings only are below. The conference luncheon featuring Dr. Kevin Elko is included in these fees:

- + County Clerks - \$100
- + County Managers/Administrators - \$100
- + County Attorneys CLE Seminar - \$125

Please note: Registration for county officials does not include registration for spouses.

- + **ACCG Refund Policy** (*adopted October, 2015*).
The cancellation deadline is Tuesday, March 29, 2016. Cancellations received in writing by this date will be entitled to a full refund less a \$50 administration fee. Cancellations received in writing between March 30 and April 13, 2016 will be entitled to a 50% refund. There will be no refunds offered for cancellations received after April 14, 2016, unless the participant is able to substantiate a sound reason for the late notification such as an emergency beyond the participant's control.
- + If you need special assistance to attend this session, please contact ACCG.

Annual Conference Housing

Housing reservations will again be made through Visit Savannah! this year. The system allows you to receive confirmation of hotel reservations almost immediately. Once you have registered with ACCG for the meeting, you will receive a confirmation of registration that will carry instructions on making hotel reservations. There are eight conference hotels in Savannah for 2016:

- Doubletree Hotel Historic Savannah - \$209
 - Hampton Inn Historic District - \$209
 - Hilton Garden Inn Historic Savannah - \$195
 - Holiday Inn Express Savannah Historic District - \$209
 - Hotel Indigo - \$209
 - Hyatt Regency Savannah - \$209
 - Savannah Marriott Riverfront - \$209
 - Westin Savannah Harbor - \$230
- + Please check **Visit Savannah!** for information on the convention hotels – www.visitsavannah.com. Click on Accommodations, then on Browse by Location and click on Historic District. The site also has maps of Savannah and information on dining and tours.

ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy

These classes in the Lifelong Learning Academy will be offered on Friday, April 29th:

- + Core: Ethics
- + Specialty: Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System: Costs and Implications (*Public Safety track*)
- + Specialty: County Retirement Programs: What They Mean to Your Employee and Your Budget (*County Operations and Management track*)
- + Specialty: Addressing Complex Community Issues (*Quality of Life/Social Issues track*)
- + Specialty: Working with School Boards, Authorities and Other Partners (*Intergovernmental Relations track*)
- + Specialty: Developing Financial Policies (*Revenue and Finance track*)
- + Specialty: Management and Human Resources Responsibilities (*County Operations and Management track*)
- + Specialty: Global Commerce and Georgia's Targeted Industries (*Economic and Community Development track*)
- + Specialty: Citizen Public Safety Initiatives (*Public Safety track*)
- + Specialty: Civic Engagement (*Citizen Engagement track*)

These training classes will be Monday, May 2nd:

- + Core: Public Safety and Public Health
- + Specialty: Family and Children's Services (*Public Safety track*)
- + Specialty: Revenue and Tax Policy (*Revenue and Finance track*)
- + Specialty: Leadership Team Building: Creating "We's" from "I's" (*Leadership Development track*)
- + Specialty: Using Incentives for Economic Development (*Economic and Community Development track*)
- + Specialty: Fire, EMS and 911 (*Public Safety track*)
- + Specialty: Public Works and Transportation (*County Operations and Management track*)

Continuing education hours will be granted for attending the Awards Luncheon/Business Meeting and Continuing Education Sessions on April 30, and the Legislative Review and educational opportunities on May 1.

Please note: the conference registration fee covers all conference events and one Lifelong Learning Academy class, on either April 29 or May 2. If you wish to attend two classes, the conference registration fee and the second Lifelong Learning Academy class fee would apply for a total of \$880.00.

Georgia Certification for City and County Clerks

Sessions in the Georgia Certification Program for City and County Clerks will be offered during the ACCG 2016 Annual Conference – You may select one class each day.

- + Friday, April 29th – 8:00 am-11:00 am
 - o Option 1: Tax Revenue 202 (elective, 3 hours)
 - o Option 2: Inter-Governmental Agreements (elective, 3 hours)
- + Saturday, April 30th – 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m. – includes a break for the Awards Luncheon
 - o Option 1: The Millage Rate Process (required, 6 hours)
 - o Option 2: Government 101 (required, 6 hours)

This training is offered as part of the conference registration package.

Tentative Conference Agenda

(All sessions at the Convention Center unless otherwise noted.)



Friday, April 29

7:00 am

Registration

8:00 am – 11:00 am and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Lifelong Learning Academy

- Core: Ethics
- Specialty: Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System: Costs and Implications (PS)
- Specialty: County Retirement Programs: What They Mean to Your Employees and Budget (COM)
- Specialty: Addressing Complex Community Issues (QL/SI)
- Specialty: Working with School Boards, Authorities and Other Partners (IR)
- Specialty: Development Financial Policies (RF)
- Specialty: Management and Human Resources Responsibilities (COM)
- Specialty: Global Commerce and Georgia's Targeted Industries (ECD)
- Specialty: Citizen Public Safety Initiatives (PS)
- Specialty: Civic Engagement (CE)

8:00 am – 11:00 am

Clerks Education Session

Option 1: Tax Revenue 202
(elective class, 3 hours)

Option 2: Inter-Governmental Agreements
(elective class, 3 hours)

-You may select one of these as a part of your conference registration.

11:15 am – 12:45 pm

Annual Conference Opening General Session & Luncheon



Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Kevin Elko
"Shaping a Winning Culture"

Structure drives function in every organization and team. As the leadership expert W.

Edwards Deming has said, "Almost all problems an organization faces are systemic." Therefore,

it is crucial for leaders to shape the culture over and over in much the same way that an athlete shapes muscles. Dr. Kevin Elko is an author and leadership consultant to some of the nation's best professional and collegiate football teams as well as industry leaders including ING, Tyson Foods and Merrill Lynch. Learn his strategies for creating winning teams that will make your county shine!

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Section Meetings (to be held at the Westin Savannah Harbor)

- Attorneys
- Managers / Administrators
- Clerks

3:00 pm

Nominating Committee Meeting

3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Buyers Mart Opening & County Agents' Farm House Welcome Reception

Saturday, April 30

The ACCG Youth Caucus will be meeting in conjunction with the Annual Conference on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1.

8:00 am

Registration

8:15 am – 11:15 am

Clerks Education Session

Option 1: The Millage Rate Process
(required, 6 hours)

Option 2: Government 101 (required, 6 hours)
-You may select one of these as a part of your conference registration.

8:30 am – 11:15 am

County Buyers Mart and County Agents' Farm House Open

-The Farm House will be serving open breakfast from 8:30 am to 10:00 am.

11:30 am – 1:15 pm

**ACCG Awards Lunch & Conference Keynote
Followed by Business Meeting / Nomination
and Election of 2016-2017
Officers and Board**



Keynote Speaker:
Dan Thurmon
“Off Balance on Purpose”

Achieving a perfect balance between the demands of work and the complexities of life is an intriguing, desirable concept. It’s also completely unrealistic. The common way of pursuing “balance” is entirely inadequate: We sell short our best efforts, burden ourselves with guilt, and exhaust our energy. In this high-impact, unforgettable presentation, Dan Thurmon will teach you how to make an ongoing effort to infuse “life” into the workplace, and to let go of the notion of being perfectly balanced.

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Clerks Education Session Continues

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Continuing Education Sessions

• **County Preparedness: Are You Ready?**

There are many examples where the federal / state / local partnership are evident, but perhaps one of the most important times for these relationships to function seamlessly is in the area of preparedness. International and domestic terrorism, natural disasters and even rising tensions caused by law enforcement incidents require every level of government to be ready to spring to action at a moment’s notice. Federal and state officials will provide an update on preparedness activities of interest to counties and provide some tips on how to make sure your county is ready if an emergency event suddenly occurs in your community.

• **Community Health Concerns for County Officials**

Media reports chronicle some of the health challenges facing local communities: hospitals struggling to stay solvent, increasing mental health issues with decreasing services, and a lack of access to not only trauma centers but even basic health care in some instances. All of these situations impact county government both directly and indirectly. Learn more about the economics behind these issues as well as the

questions you should be asking as community leaders

6:00 pm

Dinner and Dancing with the Stars

Take in the shimmering lights of beautiful downtown Savannah as you enjoy some of traditional conference favorites including the oyster roast, a taste of Savannah and a fun evening with the River Town Band. Shine as you showcase your “dancing (and singing) with the stars” potential!

Sunday, May 1

8:30 am

Registration

8:30 am – 9:30 am

Inspirational Service

8:30 – 9:30 am

Networking Breakfast

9:45 am – 11:45 am

Legislative Review

12:00 pm – 1:45 pm

Officer and Board Installation Luncheon

2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Continuing Education Sessions

The Sunday afternoon sessions offer you a chance to “stay and learn” at the Convention Center or discover new parts of Savannah/Chatham County. Participants will receive continuing education credit for all sessions.

Hot Topics for County Officials

These sessions at the Convention Center are designed to help you dive deeper into some hot topics that impact your county.

• **Getting to Know Your ACCG Insurance and Retirement Services Programs: A Salute to ACCG Members**

When it comes to insurance and retirement program needs of Georgia counties, it’s hard to find an organization more knowledgeable than ACCG. Understanding and addressing your needs, analyzing trends, providing top-notch customer service and helping you watch your bottom line are our

primary focus. Spend the afternoon learning more about these programs as our experts share hot topics that can directly impact your county in an informal, roundtable setting designed to let you pick areas of the most interest to you. You might even find a sweet treat waiting for you there! ACCG Insurance Programs and GEBCorp / ACCG Retirement Services staff will host this session.

- **What You Need to Know about City-Lite**

Cities and counties often have enough challenges in fostering strong working relationships, especially when it comes to the dollars and cents behind service delivery. Now the concept of a new form of government, called “city-lite,” is under discussion by the Georgia General Assembly. Learn more about why you should be concerned about this initiative and how it could impact funding you currently use for county services. ACCG Associate Legislative Director Todd Edwards will bring you up to speed on this important issue and also discuss concerns related to annexation and incorporation by municipalities.

- **Visit 159 Courthouses in Two Weeks? You Betcha!**

ACCG and the Georgia Department of Economic Development are launching a Georgia Courthouse Passport Book in July 2016. This statewide tourism initiative will kick off with a two-week, high-energy, social media savvy road trip that will include a visit to every courthouse featured in *Courthouses of Georgia*. Learn more about this exciting project that has state tourism experts buzzing and brainstorm ways that you can showcase your community when the bus pulls up in front of your courthouse. This session will be led by Georgia Department of Economic Development Tourism Director Cindy Eidson and ACCG Strategy and Innovation Director Beth Brown.

Explore Savannah/Chatham County

These mini-field trips showcase the area and critical issues. Please note that the mini-field trips require pre-registration and have an additional fee to help offset costs.

- **A First-Hand Look at the Port of Savannah**

The Port of Savannah is a critical economic asset for every Georgia county. Its success spurs investment, expansion and job growth throughout the state. Last fall, the deepening of the Savannah River got underway which will allow the Port to handle larger freighters that will be using the Panama Canal when its widening is completed. Learn more about the logistics behind deepening the harbor and the economic value of the Port of Savannah as a primary gateway for trade in the United States. Georgia Ports Authority Governmental Affairs Manager Lee Beckmann will start at the convention center with a quick overview of the Georgia Ports and then take you on a “windshield” tour of the Port of Savannah. ACCG External Relations Director Kathleen Bowen will help host this afternoon excursion. *Limited space and pre-registration is required. This trip also has a \$25 registration fee to assist with transportation costs.*

- **Hands-On, Feet-In Coastal Outdoor Adventure**

While much attention is paid to Georgia’s coast as an economic driver, its ecology also plays a critical role. Join staff from the University of Georgia Marine Extension (MAREX) for a hands-on, feet-in experience learning about our state’s rich marine environments. Participants will travel to the MAREX Education Center on Skidaway Island for an afternoon of exploring coastal habitats and the animals it supports and learning about environmental issues and policy-decisions that impact them. *Limited space and pre-registration is required. This trip also has a \$25 registration fee to assist with tour costs.*

5:00 pm
Reception

6:30 pm
Board of Managers Dinner

Monday, May 2

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Lifelong Learning Academy

- Core: Public Safety and Public Health

- Specialty: Family and Children’s Services (PS)
- Specialty: Revenue and Tax Policy (RF)
- Specialty: Leadership Team Building – Creating “We’s” from “I’s” (LD)
- Specialty: Using Incentives for Economic Development (ECD)
- Specialty: Fire, EMS and 911 (PS)
- Specialty: Public Works and Transportation (COM)

Meet Your Speakers!



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kevin Elko
“Shaping a Winning Culture”

Dr. Elko received his Bachelors in Biology Education and Coaching from California University of Pennsylvania. He then went on to West Virginia University where he received two Masters and a Doctorate and was later inducted into West Virginia University Hall of Fame.

He went on to intern at the United States Olympic Committee in Colorado Springs. In sports, he has consulted with various successful NFL teams including The Pittsburgh Steelers, The Dallas Cowboys, The Philadelphia Eagles, The Miami Dolphins and The New Orleans Saints. In college sports, Dr. Elko has worked with seven BCS National Championship Football Teams including The University of Miami, L.S.U., The University of Alabama and Florida State University.

In the business world, Dr. Elko focuses on helping organizations in the areas of Leadership, Goal Setting, and various other motivational topics. His corporate clients have included ING, Tyson Foods, Abbott Labs, LPL Financial, The Hartford, Genworth, Jackson National Life, Pioneer Investments, Morgan Stanley, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, and Sun Life just to mention a few.

Dr. Elko is the author of four books, *Nerves of Steel*, *The Pep Talk*, *True Greatness: Mastering the Inner game of Business Success* and *Touchdown: Achieving Your Greatness on the Playing Field of Business and Life*.



Keynote Speaker: Dan Thurmon
“Off Balance on Purpose”

Dan Thurmon isn’t just a world-renowned Hall of Fame keynote speaker. He’s also an author, entrepreneur, workplace performance expert, fitness advocate, acrobat, unicyclist (even on mountains – yes, really), drummer, and is (in his late forties) learning flying trapeze!

Dan is known for delivering powerful, customized opening and closing keynotes in jaw-dropping style. He does handstands on podiums while discussing balance. He juggles sharp objects to teach principles of performance under pressure. He weaves through the audience on a six-foot unicycle to visually amplify principles for navigating change. You get the idea. Dan uses every bit of his passion and ability to educate and inspire his audiences. The results and experiences are unlike anything any other speaker can offer.

Dan’s philosophy can be summed up by the title of his book, [Off Balance On Purpose](#). He believes we’ll never achieve “perfect balance”. Instead of chasing this impossible dream, we should learn to embrace uncertainty and initiate positive changes that lead to personal and professional growth. Dan’s multi-dimensional view of success incorporates quality health, strong relationships, and meaningful contributions.

Dan grew his business while paying his way through college at the University of Georgia. He is a dedicated family man, currently living in the Atlanta area with his wife Shay and their children, Eddie and Maggie. He is passionate about health and fitness. He also enjoys golf, reading, writing and music. He currently plays drums for the contemporary praise band, *The Forgiven*, at Tucker United Methodist Church.