

GMEN Member Update --- November, 2005
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This is the 9th in a series of e-newsletters to GMEN members. The focus of this publication is the upcoming AEO national conference in Georgia on May 16-19, 2006.

Fundraising

As the co-host, the state microenterprise association is responsible for raising \$50,000 in sponsorships to support the conference. That is done in three ways: (1) direct sponsorships of \$5,000, \$10,000, \$25,000 or \$50,000; (2) ads in the conference program; and (3) scholarships.

GMEN has a fundraising committee working on the direct sponsorships: Winston Heard, Tony O'Reily, Marvin Bryant, Patricia Harris, and Daryl Blount. Thus far we have sent solicitations to 40 companies and governmental agencies in Georgia. If you would like to work on this committee or have potential national level sponsors please contact us ASAP at pcwill@bellsouth.net.

AEO will have a program booklet that has advertising opportunities separate from the sponsorships. Attached is a form for solicitation of ads in your local community. It will be important that you use this form in order for GMEN to get credit for the sale toward its \$50,000 goal. We will also be using this ad copy in our local resource guide that will be distributed at the national conference. For more details on the resource guide see the Concierge Desk section below.

Last, but not least ... there is the opportunity for sponsors to specifically underwrite sponsorships of the conference registration fee for local members. For more details contact me at pcwill@bellsouth.net.

Concierge Desk

GMEN members will be manning a Concierge Desk from Tuesday noon on May 16th to midafternoon on Friday May 19th. Current committee members are: Alvin Albert, Marvin Bryant, Robert Cooke, Abra Lattany-Reed, and Rosann Kent. If you are interested in volunteering to work 2 or more hours on the concierge desk, email us at pcwill@bellsouth.net ASAP. There will be a training event for all volunteers two weeks before the conference.

The first task of this committee is compilation of the resource guide. You have received two solicitations for participation in the resource guide, as well as a follow-call. **It is very important that we get this information formatted for print ASAP.** Thanks to the following programs for their early submissions: ACCION, Atlanta Metropolitan College, Cobb Microenterprise Center, and Greater Rome Area Community Enterprises.

This document will be the main advertising document during the conference for Georgia microenterprise programs and will also be used at our annual awards event on Monday, May 15th. Any ads coming from your area will be included opposite your program page in the resource guide.

To give you a feel for the overall conference, attached is a list of the 21 events that will take place over the four days and time frames. It's going to be a blast ... make sure you are registered. AEO has sent out registration booklets this month and also has online registration up and running.

Tours

GMEN will be coordinating three tours during the conference. Special thanks to Yvonne Days-Cuffie, Andrew Hines, and Charles Jones for their support in coordinating these tours. We will need six volunteers to actually host the tours ... that is coordinate those that have paid to the bus at least 15 minutes before departure, collect the tickets, ride the bus, answer any questions, and insure the bus leaves/returns on time. If you are interested in volunteering to work the tours please contact Yvonne at ydayscuffier@ging.org .

GMEN members are strongly encouraged to participate in the tours as peer learning. Attached is a summary of the tours. You will notice that one tour is an all day event on Tuesday, May 16th. You may pay for participation on your AEO conference registration form, when you register for the conference.

Micro Fair

On Wednesday night, GMEN will be responsible for hosting the conference reception **AND** the micro fair. Current committee members include Debra Simmons, Ursula Brown, Vanessa Rush, Rachel Davis, and Thelma Adams Johnson.

We are looking for 70+ microentrepreneurs to present their products for sale at this event. You have already received the form for sharing with your clients to participate in this event. Remember there will be 800-1000 potential customers to buy their products!!!

If is very important that your clients send in their registration fees for this event by the February deadline. At that point we will open up the event to other state microenterprise organizations and to non-member clients to insure a full-house. All GMEN members have received an email with the vendor registration for distributing to your clients, and all former vendors at the GMEN state conference have also received a copy of the vendor registration form. This form is also critical in development of the vendor catalog that will be distributed to all conference attendees.

We are working on potential scholarships for member clients from outside of metro Atlanta to cover one night lodging (not at the conference hotel), more details to follow ... but they must have their registration fee in on time.

We are also looking for two more \$5,000 sponsors to underwrite the cost of this reception/micro fair. Two other sponsors are already pending. Vendor registration will only cover 10% of this event cost.

All vendors that participate in this event will be forwarded to NCAPV for potential participation in their vendor fair at their national conference in Atlanta on July 9-12, 2006.

Fun Night

Whew ... on Thursday night, the last night of the conference, GMEN will host a social event at Underground Atlanta. These tickets must be purchased separate from your conference registration. There is a form in the conference registration guide on page 38 that provides the process for getting tickets to this event. All attendees must purchase tickets to participate in this event.