



# GEORGIA CMAA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

**SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM  
CHAPTER DIRECTOR  
JOHN OFRECIO, CCM**

**2026 CHAPTER MOTTO**

**Connecting Leaders,  
Building Legacy**



**UPCOMING CONFERENCES  
AND EVENTS**

**COMMITTEE MEMBER  
SPOTLIGHT**

**NEW MEMBER WELCOME**



**GEORGIA  
CHAPTER**  
CLUB MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

# MESSAGE FROM CHAPTER DIRECTOR JOHN OFRECIO, CCM

Dear Georgia CMAA Members,

Spring is officially in full swing across Georgia, bringing with it a renewed sense of energy, growth, and opportunity. As our clubs come alive with vibrant landscapes and increased member activity, this season serves as a reminder of the dynamic and ever-evolving nature of our profession. April is the perfect time to reconnect, refocus, and continue elevating the standards of excellence that define our chapter.

I would like to recognize Max Jacobs, President of the UGA Student Chapter, and Roberto Cardona, President of the GSU Student Chapter, as emerging leaders in our industry. They, along with their peers, bring fresh perspectives, energy, and enthusiasm to club management. We are incredibly proud of the continued growth and engagement of our student chapters. Their involvement strengthens our chapter and ensures a bright future for our profession.

We encourage all members to support, mentor, and connect with our students—they are an essential part of who we are and where we are going.

Finally, we are honored to share that our chapter has been recognized as CMAA's Medium Chapter of the Year. This achievement reflects the dedication, collaboration, and passion of our entire membership. It is a testament to the strength of our community and the commitment each of you brings to advancing our profession. Let's celebrate this recognition together and take pride in all that we have accomplished.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in the Georgia CMAA Chapter. We look forward to seeing you this spring and continuing to grow together.

Warm Regards,

John Ofrecio, CCM  
Assistant General Manager  
Ansley Golf Club

# SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE



THE 2026 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE, HOSTED BY THE ALABAMA, GEORGIA, AND TENNESSEE CHAPTERS, WELCOMES YOU TO CHATTANOOGA JULY 19-21, 2026.

TOP OFF YOUR SUMMER WITH CONTINUING EDUCATION, NETWORKING, AND LOCAL EXPERIENCES SUCH AS GOLF AT BLACK CREEK CLUB, A VISIT TO THE ACCLAIMED TENNESSEE AQUARIUM, A TOUR AND TASTING AT CHATTANOOGA WHISKEY, AND EVENING WINE EVENTS.

THIS CONFERENCE IS OPEN TO ALL CMAA MEMBERS!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

# 2026 HOST CONFERENCE



THE 2026 GEORGIA HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL SUMMIT (HOST CONFERENCE), HOSTED BY UGA'S HOSPITALITY & FOOD INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ON MAY 4TH, BRINGS TOGETHER LEADERS FROM ACROSS HOSPITALITY, TOURISM, CLUBS, AND FOODSERVICE FOR A DAY OF INSIGHT AND INNOVATION CENTERED ON THIS YEAR'S THEME, "THE SCIENCE OF SERVICE: ORCHESTRATING STRATEGY, SCALE, AND STORY."

THE PROGRAM FEATURES A STATE OF THE INDUSTRY ADDRESS, FOUR FOCUSED MASTERCLASS PANELS, AND A CLOSING KEYNOTE FROM ALTON BROWN, EXPLORING THE TRENDS AND STRATEGIES SHAPING TODAY'S HOSPITALITY LANDSCAPE - FROM FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND LARGE-SCALE OPERATIONS TO BRAND GROWTH AND COMMUNITY BUILDING.

NOTABLY, THE CHEMISTRY OF COMMUNITY PANEL WILL INCLUDE GEORGIA CHAPTER CMAA MEMBERS **AMBER READ, CCM** AND **ALLIE WALDMAN, CCM**, HIGHLIGHTING THE CLUB INDUSTRY'S ROLE IN CREATING MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS AND LASTING MEMBER EXPERIENCES.

[MORE INFORMATION  
HERE](#)



[REGISTER HERE](#)

# PI FOR A PURPOSE



[FULL CHATTAHOOCHEE VIDEO HERE](#)



Chattahoochee Country Club and Ansley Golf Club take their pies (not so) seriously! Clubhouse Manager Vaughan Smith and General Manager Matthew Collins of Chatahoochee Country Club and General Manager Calvin Bolling of Ansley Golf Club rang in the March 14th holiday with their team, embracing the spirit of Pi Day in the most entertaining way possible...  
by taking a few pies to the face!

Money raised from this event was donated to charity.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

**20**

**LEADERSHIP WITH J. ESPENSHIP**  
MARIETTA COUNTRY CLUB  
9:30 AM BREAKFAST | EDUCATION  
OPTIONAL GOLF FOLLOWING

APRIL

**14**

**CMAA CLUB PROFESSIONALS SPRING  
PANEL**  
55 PARK PLACE, ATLANTA, GA ROOM 120  
12:45 PM - 2:00 PM

APRIL

**22**

**WOMEN IN CLUB MANAGEMENT  
ZOOM CALL**  
SPEAKER: AUBREY PARIS  
GENEGERAL MANAGER: THE COUNTRY  
CLUB OF RANCHO BERNARDO

MAY

**04**

**FIRESIDE CHAT**  
PIEDMONT DRIVING CLUB  
AQUATICS DISCUSSION

# UPCOMING EVENTS!

**REGISTER HERE**

**ZOOM LINK**

**GEORGIA CHAPTER**  
CLUB MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Monday April 20, 2026**

## JEFF "ODIE" ESPENSHIP TARGET LEADERSHIP


Founder, Speaker, and Author of Target Leadership  
USAF Fighter Pilot, International Airline Captain

A highly recognized brand in Culture-Leadership-Safety training Odie's expertise is sought after by many of our nation's top Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 companies.

Registration/breakfast 9:30am-10:30am  
Education 10:30am-12pm

Optional 9 hole golf on The Overlook 9  
12:30pm with box lunch-limit 44 players  
(additional cost to play)

**RSVP: EDUCATION AND GOLF SEPARATE  
MUST ATTEND EDUCATION TO PLAY GOLF**



Marietta Country Club  
1400 Marietta Country Club Dr., NW  
Kennesaw, GA 30152

**WOMEN IN CLUB  
MANAGEMENT  
GEORGIA**

April 22 @ 10am  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88372053181>



**Aubrey Paris,  
General Manager  
The Country Club of  
Rancho Bernardo**



**REGISTER AT GACMAA.ORG OR EMAIL  
GAMANAGINGDIRECTOR@GMAIL.COM**

**GEORGIA CHAPTER**  
CLUB MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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### CMAA Club Professionals Spring Panel

The GSU Student Chapter, in collaboration with the Georgia Chapter, welcomes students to the 2026 spring panel, where we will expand our knowledge of private club management through professionals in the Metro Atlanta area! Explore an exceptional sector in the hospitality industry of high-class Food & Beverage, Event Management, and more!

**Location**  
Tuesday, April 14, 2026  
55 Park Place, Atlanta, GA  
Room 120 | Fintech Room  
12:45 PM - 2:00 PM

**RSVP on PIN!**



**Business Casual  
\*Complimentary Food and Drinks!\***

## One Stop Club Solutions




- Food & Beverage Equipment**  
Premium kitchen and bar equipment solutions tailored for club dining and entertainment operations.
- Smallwares**  
Quality smallwares and supplies to keep your clubs' kitchen and service areas running smoothly.
- Food Cost Reduction**  
Strategic sourcing and cost analysis to optimize your food and beverage margins without sacrificing quality.
- Energy Audits**  
Comprehensive energy assessments to reduce utility costs and improve your clubs' sustainability footprint.
- Simulator Design & Buildout**  
End-to-end golf simulator design, installation, and integration for a premier member experience.
- Golf Course Furnishings**  
Custom outdoor furnishings, signage, tee markers and graphics to ensure a cohesive and aesthetically pleasing course identity throughout your property.
- Club Furniture**  
Curated furniture and furnishings for clubhouses, patios, and on-course comfort stations.
- Architectural Services**  
Architectural planning and renovation service designed specifically for club environments.
- Club Amenities & Software**  
Modern amenity solutions and club management software to streamline operations and enhance member satisfaction.

**Who we are:**  
The Club Partners is a specialized consulting firm that supports Golf and Country Club Leadership in their mission to elevate the member experience by providing strategic access to curated products, services, and vendor partnerships.

Contact us for more information or to schedule an on-site appointment.  
✉ [cferger@theclubpartners.com](mailto:cferger@theclubpartners.com)  
☎ 630-473-5191  
🌐 <https://theclubpartners.com>

## Join Us! FOR A SPECIAL EVENT



**THE CLUB PARTNERS INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR AN EVENING AWAY FROM YOUR CLUB. ENJOY A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE LEARNING MORE ABOUT WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOUR CLUB, WHILE SHOPPING AND ENJOYING SOME COCKTAILS.**

**5-7PM WEDNESDAY, 29 APRIL**

**GREYSON CLOTHIERS  
1170 HOWELL MILL RD NW.  
ATLANTA, GA 30318**

**THE FIRST 50 ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE A \$50 GIFT CARD TO GREYSON**

**EMAIL GAMANAGINGDIRECTOR@GMAIL.COM  
TO REGISTER**

# COMMITTEE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Ava Seymour**  
Assistant Manager  
Sunset Hills Country Club

**Ava** serves on the Georgia Chapter's Membership Committee, making a meaningful impact on the Chapter through her dedicated service. Working closely with chapter leadership, she plays a key role in fostering membership growth while ensuring each new member feels welcomed and engaged from the start. Her efforts to introduce value-driven initiatives continue to elevate the overall member experience.

In addition, Ava has also taken over the role of planning this year's fireside chats - a key part of connecting all areas of the chapter.

**Thank you** for all you do in assisting to build a strong and connected future for the Chapter!

# MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

"I don't know about you, but there are seasons in my life when I get so wrapped up in, well, wrapping up projects, that I don't think about what comes next, much less what's coming in the next quarter or year. It's so easy to get caught in the immediate day-to-day work that I forget to look at the overall direction I'm taking.

This reminds me of a passage from Alice in Wonderland that perfectly captures the importance of direction. When Alice asks the Cheshire Cat which way she ought to go, he replies, "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to." When Alice says she doesn't much care where, the Cat answers, "Then it doesn't much matter which way you go."

From Shannon NaGun



# WELCOME TO THE CHAPTER!



## **Zach Stewart**

Restaurant Manager  
Atlanta Athletic Club

### **1. What city were you born?**

a. I was born in Oregon City, Oregon

### **2. What is your favorite season?**

a. My favorite season is Fall

### **3. If you could interview anyone, who would it be and why?**

a. I would love to meet/interview Francis Mallmann. He is an Argentine chef who focus on Patagonian cuisine and methods of barbecuing or cooking with fire. Coming from a background of fine dining restaurants and a sommelier, his food and methods always have intrigued me and one day I will get down to Argentina to try his food. I also believe cooking with fire is the best way to experience food.

# GSGA ANNUAL MEETING RECAP



## The Strength of Golf in Georgia

Golf continues to thrive across Georgia, fueled by strong partnerships and a shared commitment to the game's future. At the recent Georgia State Golf Association Annual Meeting, leaders highlighted the game's growth and the positive impact it continues to have on communities statewide.

The Georgia State Golf Association (GSGA), alongside partners including the Georgia Chapter of CMAA and the Georgia PGA, plays a key role in advancing the game and strengthening our industry.

For CMAA members, this momentum underscores the value of collaboration and the opportunities ahead.

**[VIEW FULL PRESENTATION HERE.](#)**

# CMAA HONOR SOCIETY

Membership in CMAA's Honor Society is open to all managers who have achieved their Certified Club Manager (**CCM**) designation and have met the following criteria:

- Achievement of 400 credits beyond certification with a minimum of 150 of those credits being CMAA/CMI-endorsed education programs.
- Professional membership with CMAA for a minimum of ten years
- Successful completion of BMI Tactical Leadership or BMI Strategic Leadership

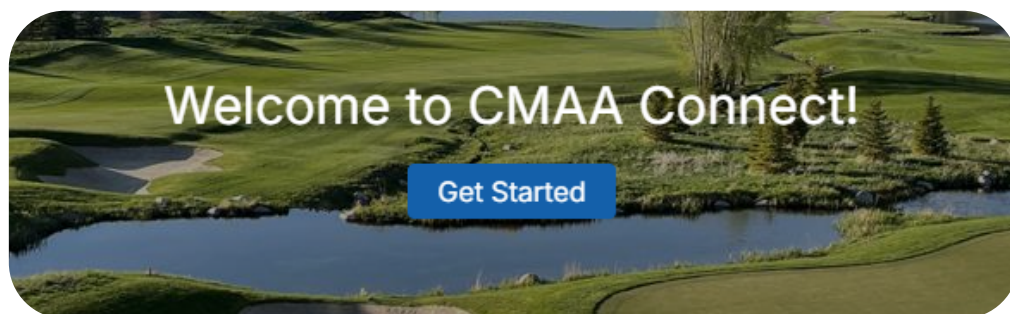


**ALL CMAA CERTIFICATION  
PROGRAMS HERE**

# GET CONNECTED TO YOUR CMAA NETWORK!

Endless possibilities are within reach! Explore the many tools available to spark innovation and solve challenges at your club. By engaging at the State and National levels, you'll gain access to a network of support and limitless resources!

**Visit the CMAA Connect Page to connect with other Club professionals!**



**Connect with your fellow chapter members by clicking below!**

**Georgia Chapter**

# The Peach Review

## 2025-2026 Officers & Board of Directors

Kyle Baxter, CCM

**President**

Marietta Country Club

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Susan Schenkel, CCM, CCE

**Vice President**

COO/General Manager

Bear Lake Reserve

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Amber Read, CCM

**Secretary/Treasurer**

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General Manager/COO

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## Connecting Leaders, Building Legacy