

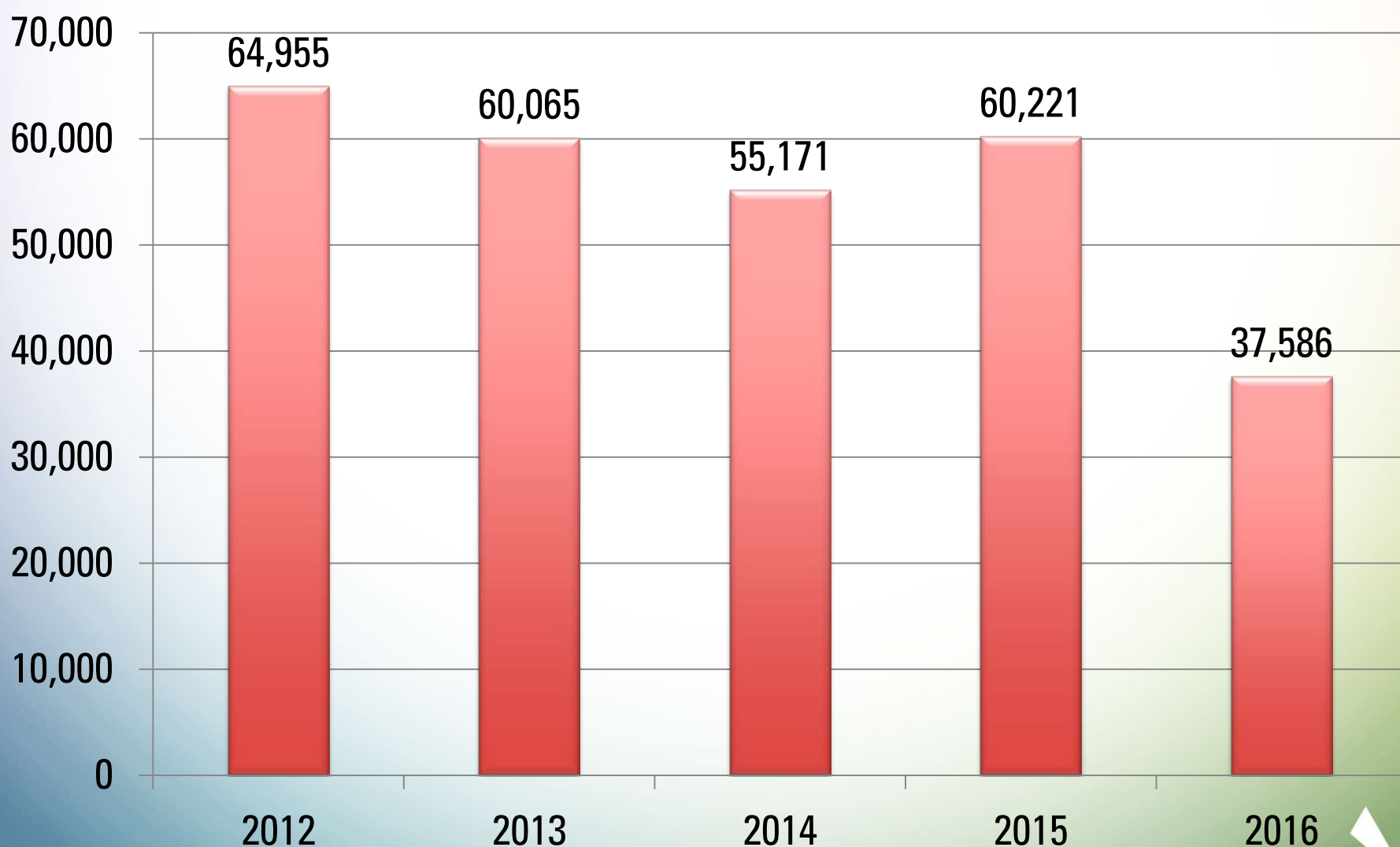


Countdown to Year End!

It is hard to believe, but we are getting closer and closer to saying goodbye to the year 2016 and hello to 2017! Our Ambassador chapters have already had a great year both in membership and in service hours. Almost 100% of our chapters have seen membership growth this year and we are already ahead in service hours reported for this year compared to 2015.

As you may recall, our State President Gene Ussery, set a service hour goal of 65,000 service hours. I am very pleased to announce we are over halfway there. According to the chart below, we have reported 37,586 hours this year. That is a tremendous accomplishment and I want to thank you all for what you have done so far as you have continued to live out the motto, "A Citizen Wherever We Serve."

And we're not done yet! Please continue to turn those service hours in at your monthly meetings and let's hit that 65,000 hour mark!





Community Impact

Savannah

Each month, the Savannah chapter focuses their community impact efforts on one charity in their area. Members bring in items of need for that charity at their chapter meetings. The chapter recently selected The Humane Society of Greater Savannah. The members went above and beyond in donations to the charity as seen in the picture below. Chapter President Diana Hodges is surrounded by the many items that were later taken to the organization by fellow Ambassador member, Janet Langford. Thank you so much Savannah for helping out such a wonderful organization.





Senior Citizen



Community Impact Metro South



Members of the Metro South Ambassadors had a wonderful time participating in the “Walk to End Alzheimer’s of the Southern Crescent” this month. The walk was held in Peachtree City. Thanks to everyone who participated and to the chapter for their donation to the team!





Senior Citizen



Community Impact Altamaha

Boards + Nails + Altamaha Ambassadors=77 Ramps

The Altamaha Ambassadors continue to change their community one ramp at a time. Since January 1, members of the chapter have built 77 ramps. That's seventy-seven lives forever changed thru boards, nails and caring hearts. Thank you Altamaha for your continued commitment to your community and its citizens!





Georgia Power Ambassador Members

Savannah

Ambassadors, Bill Parrott and Jim McNear of the Savannah chapter were among 25 veterans honored during a ceremony sponsored by the Concerned Veterans of America to commemorate the anniversary of the end of World War II. The event was held on River Street in Savannah near the World War II monument. Each veteran received a copy of their campaign medal, as well as, the World War II victory medal.



Bill Parrott was presented his medals by Congressman Buddy Carter.



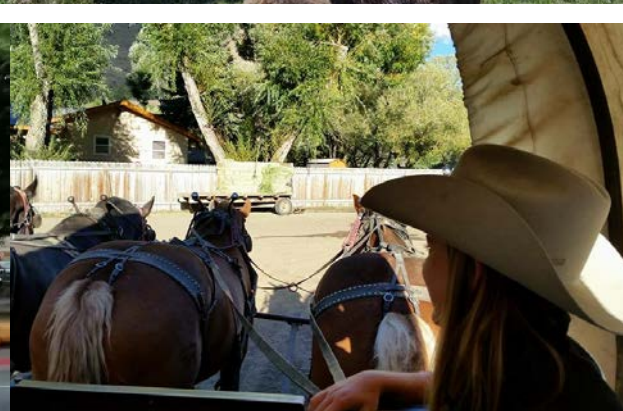
Jim McNear was presented his medals by Sheriff John Wilcher.





State Travel

On September 1, Ambassador members from across the state set out on an adventure to the great Northwest. From Colorado to Utah, the group took in so many historic sites on their nine day trip. Sites included, Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone, The Ranch at Ucross and Cody, home of Buffalo Bill. A great time was had by all and we would like to say "THANK YOU" to State Travel Administrator, Lois Duncan, for all that she did in planning "The Great Adventure."





Ambassadors Remember....

The 1996 Olympic Games

It is very hard to believe that August of this year was the 20th Anniversary of the 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympic Games. We probably all can remember where we were at the exact moment the announcement was made that Atlanta had won the privilege of hosting the Olympic Games. What a great time of celebration and excitement was felt throughout the streets during the two week event!

In honor of the Olympic Games, Ambassador members were asked to share their thoughts and memories from their time assisting during the games. The excitement of that time can still be felt in the stories shared.

We hope you enjoy this special section of this month's "Senior Citizen" as our....

Ambassadors Remember The 1996 Olympic Games!





Reflections of the 1996 Olympic Games

Peggy Grubb



“My summer of 1996 was spent working endless hours in the sweltering heat at the stadium with the rehearsal team for the Opening & Closing Ceremonies. We began weeks prior to the start of the games by coordinating the practice schedule for the groups who made up the show. Each of us were assigned to certain groups and responsible for securely checking them in and out of the stadium for their rehearsal times and making certain they were timely and grouped together so the rehearsals ran smoothly. We began working with one or two groups at the beginning and over the coming weeks began putting different sections of the ceremonies together until the final days when we were practicing everyone together in anticipation of the dress rehearsal and opening nights. On the night of the Opening Ceremony, we met with our assigned group(s) at an off-site location, accompanied them as they were bussed to the stadium for their entrance and so proud of the great job they did. “



“We continued to practice with the participants for the Closing Ceremony at an off-site location during the Olympics and followed the same procedure in preparing for the smaller ending. “

“The highlight of my Olympic experience was being selected as one of the two volunteers selected to travel to the Olympic Village and accompany the athletes who were chosen to be the flag bearers for their countries. Traveling to the stadium, Russian flag bearer Svetlana Masterkova was wearing the two gold medals she had one. She won the Women’s 800 meter and Women’s 1500 meter races. She expressed her thanks to the volunteers for our kindness during the games. She asked if I’d like to see her gold medal. I thought she was just going to hand it to me, but surprisingly she placed one of them around my neck. Someone jokingly said, “You’re putting it on her neck?” to which she replied, “Don’t worry. I can catch her.” I took a minute to admire the medal and then gave it back. I was too tired from all the practice to try to run!”





Reflections of the 1996 Olympic Games

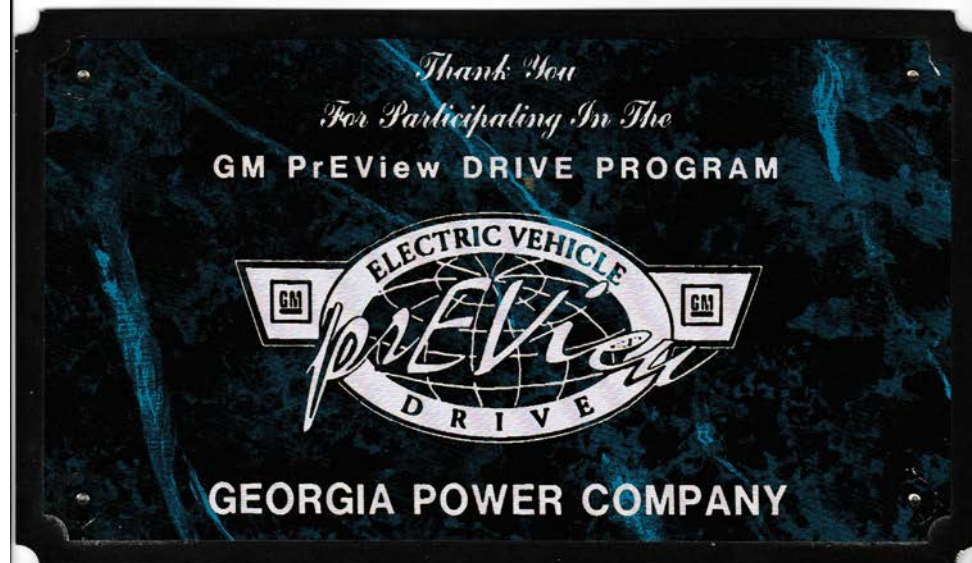
Dan Tillirson

As a Fleet Specialist, I had been assigned to Electric Transportation. We had spent a lot of time learning, preparing and setting up a system of electric buses, cars, tugs, scooters and even bicycles that demonstrated the practical applications of electric transportation. In the village, athletes were shuttled in trams, pulled by electric tugs. The demand was so great that extra batteries were swapped out. Batteries had to be cooled and recharged around the clock. I spent my time (12 hour days) In what was called a VIP tent where we proceeded to offer demo rides and information about electric transportation.

“GM had furnished their vehicles known as the “GM Impact” – Proof of concept of the production vehicle EV 1. We even had an electric police bicycle complete with lights and siren. I will always remember seeing that “EV Smile” on the faces of our customers. At the close of “Preview Drive”, GM sponsored an evening meal for us and our spouses presenting each of us with a nice plaque.”



Atlanta 1996





Reflections of the 1996 Olympic Games

Kay Kersey

“For our roles as Field Marshalls for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, we practiced many long, hot and late hours at the new Turner Field. We had to park our cars at a location some distance from the stadium and buses shuttled us to and from Turner Field for practices. We were not allowed to bring anything with us. No purses, no personal items, etc. We were told we could have a quarter in our pockets, but nothing else. There was no place to store any personal belongings and we were on the field for hours at a time! As the heat was brutal in July, and most of us had to work during the day, a lot of the practices were held at night. “

“One such night, after a grueling practice, ending around 1 am in the morning, we all went outside the gates of the stadium to catch our buses, and, there were NO BUSES waiting for us!! We noticed others standing around, looking aimlessly into the night, and found out that the bus drivers had gone on strike after dropping us off earlier in the evening! So, here we were. A long way from our cars in the middle of the night. Too far to walk. Not safe to walk. Eight of us. Miraculously, one of our group had kept his American Express Card in his pocket. “We’ll call a cab” he yelled! (Remember , people didn’t have cell phones then, like they do now). We found a pay phone—used one of our quarters to place the call !! Here comes the cab!! There are eight of us. Five seater car. No problem. We are hot, sweaty, dirty, tired and we don’t care. Somehow we all got in that cab!!!! Wish we could’ve made a selfie of that!!!

“What an experience! The Opening and Closing Ceremonies were glorious. I had never seen anything like it and likely will never again. I feel privileged to have been a part of it all, along with all the many Georgia Power Employees that were part of the Volunteer force in 1996. ”





Reflections of the 1996 Olympic Games

Larry Allgood



“I was a corporate volunteer for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and was assigned to the Ceremonies Field/Prop Stage Team for the Opening and Closing ceremonies.

Months of preparation and practice would be required before the opening ceremony took place. Long days and some evenings were spent rehearsing for the role I would play during the opening ceremony supporting a section of the storm cloud as it moved through the Olympic Stadium. The storm cloud represented the turmoil and tribulation, which was thrust upon the South during the American Civil War.



During the closing ceremony, I provided logistical support, such as moving ramps for the BMX bicycle show, providing a buffer of security for the closing ceremony entertainers as they moved on and off the field, and installation and removal of the field cover.

Hot days and warm nights were spent preparing, but when there was free time, I could be found in Centennial Olympic Park listening to great music, trading pins and meeting people from all over the world. It was a great life experience.”

Larry’s story above was published in a recent edition of “The Georgia Magazine.”



Atlanta 1996



Reflections of the 1996 Olympic Games

Barbara Kerby

“Here is a photo of my family attending the rowing event in Gainesville on Lake Lanier in July of 1996. We also hosted five members of a family from Montana whose daughter was on the Olympic Rowing Team. ”



Ken Gillespie

”I was recruited for an “Olympic Test Event” to be held at Lake Lanier the week of June 18-25, 1995 and our training was at the Ga. Mountain Center on June 3, 1995. At the conclusion of the event, I was approached by contractor staff personnel from ACOG Fleet Operations to consider a volunteer position with them. I agreed and reported to ACOG headquarters on July 13, 1995.

My assignments included:

- Receiving, staging and distributing vehicles from the main staging area at Fort Gillem
- Shuttle service for Dignitaries , Judges, and Athletes to all venues.
- Recruiting and conducting initial training for drivers. Part of the recruitment effort included a spot on the WSB TV program “ People 2 People” which aired on June 23, 1996.
- Motor Pool driver for on call service (Airport, Hospital, etc.)

I was not assigned to any one individual as a VIP driver but rather had a more diversified assignment. As the games were really underway, I was one of many drivers stationed at Volunteer Village to provide transportation to the Athletes, Staff, and family members.

My most memorable moment would have to be the selection to serve as one of the van drivers in the President’s motorcade during his visit on January 15, 1996. We underwent additional background checks and training by the Secret Service for the assignment. We met Air Force One in the morning at Dobbins Air Force Base and proceeded from there. My passengers were CBS staff members of the White House Press Corps. We basically shut down the City that day wherever we went. Unlike a normal Motorcade that gets the President from the airport to a single location down town, we were on a tour, with many different stops. I remember the frustrated folks caught in traffic when we stopped. Such was the case when we shut down North Avenue as the Governor and the President went into the Varsity for a lunch break.”



Reflections of the 1996 Olympic Games

Betty Wilkerson

“For 30 days I've pondered which story I would write about relating to my 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympics Volunteer experience. There is no way I can summarize the most thrilling experience I've ever had. Starting with the Olympic Committee announcement "ATLANTA," to wearing the Atlanta Airport volunteer uniform with pride, I experienced a rapture of patriotism that captured us all. It seems so unreal, but it happened! I was fortunate and honored to represent the 1996 Georgia Power Olympic Team during the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, GA.”

Frank Boyd

“The summer of 1996 was an experience of a lifetime! I served as a Field Marshall for the opening and closing ceremonies, worked on the staff of the Georgia Power Hospitality Village, and attended various events.”

“As for the Field Marshall experience, I remember the remote parking on Sawtell Avenue (across the road from the old Chevrolet Plant where I worked one Summer), bus ride to the stadium with performers, box lunches/dinners, waiting long hours in our seats until it was our turn to rehearse, watching the other groups and seeing how this ceremony would come together, and observing things that went wrong. We asked the Director one day about the colorful material that kept getting caught on the cable and had to be ripped off. He said “don't worry, it happens in rehearsal and we have six sets!”

“Several times at rehearsal, my group would be in the North West Tunnel waiting our turn when the children's group would exit in front of us. We would give them a loud ovation along with high fives. At opening ceremonies, one of the kids was crying, and when someone asked her what was wrong, she said “No One Gave Me a High Five.” We came to the rescue and I wonder if she remembers that moment.”

“My job at the Georgia Power Hospitality Village was driving one of the vans. We made a loop from the “Leaning Tower of Power” to the various venues, hotels and back. I had not planned on trading pins but that quickly became a popular thing to do with our guests. One of our guests had an interest in only boxing but agreed to give some lesser hyped events a try. He mentioned in the van later that day that he no interest in attending handball but they had to “drag him out when it was time to leave.”

“The Closing Ceremonies turned into a big party for the athletes. Ann and I lucked out and ended up front row center of the stage. We enjoyed the musical program and seeing the athletes sing and dance. As we were leaving the stadium, after midnight, one of the USA athletes gave me his hat. I still have it along with my teal blazer! “



Senior Citizen



Interested in Becoming a Georgia Power Ambassador?

Georgia Power Ambassadors is a network of retirees and their spouses committed to caring and sharing within their communities through active volunteerism and community support.

The purpose of the organization is to promote a means of friendly association, foster continuing fellowship and provide service to the community, while maintaining communication between retirees and Georgia Power. Support from our Ambassadors is vital in helping Georgia Power be “A Citizen Wherever We Serve.”

Membership allows you continued association with Georgia Power and connection to over 2,000 members in over 19 chapters statewide. There are service project opportunities, travel opportunities and company information updates available, so why not join today?

For more information on membership and chapter locations, please contact the State Ambassadors Office at 404-506-7000 or 1-800-442-8158.

We look forward to seeing you at a meeting soon!





2016 Chapter Leadership

Chapter	President	Meeting Schedule
Altamaha	Jim Cherry	4 th Thursday
Athens	Ray Holton	1 st Thursday
Augusta	James Ford	2 nd Tuesday
Columbus	Suzanne Corley	3 rd Monday
Golden Isles	Tean Jackson	3 rd Tuesday
Heart of Georgia	Felix King	3 rd Wednesday
Metro Central	Peggy Grubb	2 nd Tuesday
Metro East	Robert Purcell	4 th Wednesday
Metro North	Tom Powell	2 nd Thursday
Metro South	Earl Spell	2 nd Monday
Metro West	Carol Paschal	2 nd Monday*
Northeast GA	Jane Bingham	4 th Wednesday
Rome	Steve Nance	2 nd Wednesday*
Savannah	Diana Hodges	4 th Tuesday
Sinclair-Oconee	Sam McChesney	2 nd Wednesday
South Georgia	Charles Smith	3 rd Tuesday**
Southwest Georgia	Tommy Norman	3 rd Thursday
Statesboro	Verna Bennett	3 rd Wednesday
West Georgia	Russell Spence	1 st Tuesday

- **Meeting every other month beginning with even months*
- ***Meeting every other month beginning with odd months*