



Communities of **Coastal Georgia Foundation**

Strengthening Our Communities Through Engaged Philanthropy

DECENNIAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

"FOR GOOD, FOREVER"

THANK YOU to the over 60 donors who gave!! The campaign is now 90% of the way toward "endowing" a \$3.5M fund to support the Foundation's operations and ensuring permanent, impactful philanthropy in our region. We are grateful for those who have made investments in this campaign and welcome those who would join with us for a successful conclusion.

[DONATE NOW](#)

Year-End Giving

As we close out another year, we thought that it would be helpful to share some useful information that you may want to keep in mind for your end-of-year charitable giving.

While there are still significant questions about what the future holds for tax rates in 2017 and beyond, there is little doubt that significant changes are on the horizon. The general consensus is that 2016 represents an opportunity to take advantage of higher deduction rates and amounts, particularly for those in the upper tax brackets. A substantive and balanced *Wall Street Journal* article discussing this matter in greater detail can be found [HERE](#). While this information may prove helpful, please consult your tax adviser for your specific situation.

Please contact us if we can assist you in any way: pwhite@coastalgeorgiafoundation.org or 912 268-4442.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

At its annual meeting this month, new Board members and officers were elected. Stephen V. Kinney and Hillary S. Stringfellow will join the Foundation beginning in January 2017.



County Bar Association.

Stephen V. Kinney is a partner in the law firm of Kinney & Kinney, LLC in St. Marys, Georgia. He earned his Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2001 and his Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, from the University of Georgia in 1998. He has a broad field of practice, with particular focus on real estate, probate and commercial litigation. Stephen is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and has been admitted to Georgia Supreme Court, Georgia Court of Appeals and all of the state's U. S. District Courts. Stephen is a member of St. Marys United Methodist Church, the St. Marys United Methodist Church Foundation Board of Directors, the Ameris Bank Southeast Georgia Coastal Board of Directors, and the St. Marys Kiwanis Club. He serves as the Treasurer for the Camden

Hillary Smith Stringfellow is a partner in Gilbert Harrell Sumerford & Martin in Brunswick, Georgia. Her practice includes all aspects of



estate and trust planning for families and individuals of all backgrounds and resources, including tax planning for high net worth individuals, family businesses, and special needs individuals. Hillary also works in the firm's corporate practice group assisting for-profit and non-profit corporations with formation, transactions and governance, and she has focused her practice on all phases of tax-exempt organizations. Mrs. Stringfellow received her Juris Doctorate, magna cum laude, from the University of Georgia School of Law. She is a member of the Georgia Bar Association, the Fiduciary Section of the Georgia Bar, and the Brunswick Bar Association. Active in the community, Hillary served as the President of the Coastal Georgia Historical Society. She is a current member of the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Georgia, and a former member of the Board of Directors at CASA Glynn. She is also a current member of the ethics committee for the Southeast Georgia Health System, a member of the board for the Georgia FFA Foundation, and a member of the Professional Advisors Council for the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation.

W. Bernard McCloud, with Sea Island Company and Ellen Fleming, a retired educator, administrator and headmaster, were re-elected to four year terms.

The Foundation's Officers for the coming year are: Arthur M. Lucas, Chair; Bonney S. Shuman, Vice- Chair; and William J. Stembler, Treasurer. Claude H. Booker, Jr., Jack Kilgore and Mary Root serve as At-Large Members on the Executive Committee.

The Foundation bids farewell to its last two Founding Board members- Jeff Barker and Rees Sumerford. Both have served their maximum number of consecutive terms. Jeff and Rees have been tireless advocates for community philanthropy and the growing stature of the Foundation since its inception in 2005. We are delighted that they will both continue to be involved at the committee level.

Grants Education and Information Session hosted by GCN

This past November, the Georgia Center for Nonprofits hosted two events targeted at preparing nonprofits for grant seeking.



The meetings were held at the Old Courthouse in Woodbine and the Golden Isles Career Academy in Brunswick. Presenters included Dr. Valerie A. Hepburn with the Coastal Georgia Foundation and Mr. Jeff Barker with St. Mary United Methodist Church Foundation. Virginia Brown with United Way of Coastal Georgia also presented at the Brunswick session.



These important sessions provided information on funders' interests, criteria and process.



Elizabeth Runkle with the Georgia Center for Nonprofits finished the event by speaking on "Understanding Impact and Outcomes - Define, Measure and Evaluate your Impact".

Grant Cycle Begins in January

The Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation will announce its 2017 Competitive Grant Cycle on January 3rd. Applications are due at the end of February. Information will be available on the Foundation's website (www.coastalgeorgiafoundation.org).