

Jackson County Area Chamber Announces Steve Wittry as New President and CEO

(Jefferson, Georgia) The Board of Directors of the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce has voted unanimously to name Steve Wittry as the next President and Chief Executive Officer of the business and economic development organization. The Chason Group led the executive search process for the chamber.

The announcement was made by Wade Johnson of Jackson EMC, who serves as the 2025 Chair of the chamber. Wittry started his new position this week. He is succeeding long-time and successful retiring leader Jim Shaw.

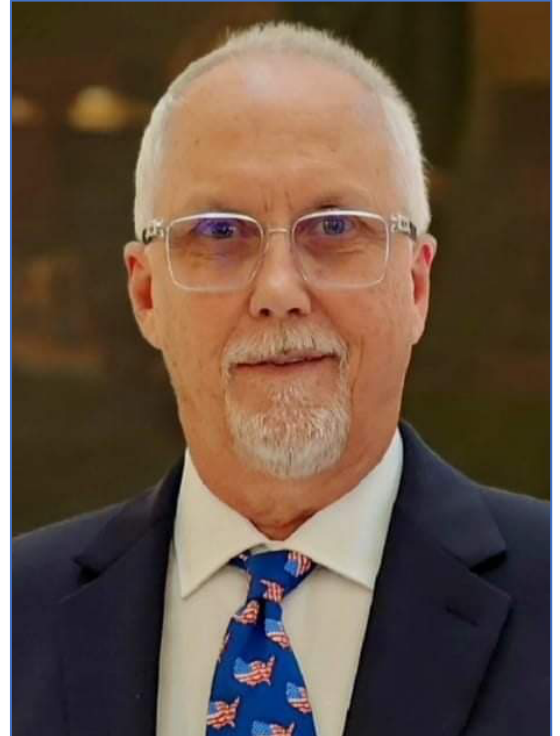
“Steve brings a tremendous amount of business and government experience to the leadership role,” according to Johnson. “He also has been actively involved in many of the initiatives the chamber and our members have been working on for the past several years. Those include infrastructure planning, transportation, and economic development.”

Wittry has been a resident of Jackson County since 2012 and currently operates Relationship Edge Consulting, Inc., a business consultancy that helps companies build and maintain relationships with customers, coworkers, and managers. He has proven himself as a business leader; served in various officer positions on the chamber board in the past several years; and is a veteran of two deployments to Vietnam with the United States Navy.

Most recently, Wittry served eight years on the Jackson County Planning Commission and also was a member of the Jackson County Industrial Development Authority. He is a graduate of Colorado State University.

“The opportunity to become more engaged in the community where my wife and I chose to retire is certainly exciting,” Wittry said. “I am anxious to listen and learn about the issues impacting all business types and sizes in our region. I want to determine what strategies the chamber can put in place that will have positive impacts on the bottom line for each business sector we serve.”

A majority of Wittry’s career was spent with Macy’s Department Stores and The William Carter Company, serving in various roles in human resources, operations, and finances. Key volunteer roles he has held in Jackson County include the 2022 Moratorium Task Force and the 2022 Impact Fee Committee.



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Wittry's service to the community also includes Piedmont CASA Board of Directors (past Chair); the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors (Secretary, Treasurer and Chair); the Jefferson Rotary Club; Leadership Jackson Class of 2021; Legacy Youth Mentor; National Alliance on Mental Illness Treasurer; and County Poll Manager. He and his wife attend Center Pointe Church in Hoschtown where he serves as Church Council Chair.

The executive search process for the chamber was divided into three segments. The first included listening to community and business leaders about the successes and challenges that face the organization in the years to come. The second phase was designed to cast the net for candidates. And finally, the third covered an extensive process of evaluating the candidates and their resources.

The president and chief executive officer is responsible for all aspects of operations for the chamber and reports directly to the board of directors through an annually elected board chair. The professional provides vision, strategic direction, and management for the programs and personnel of the organization. Wittry will spearhead strategic planning, programming, personnel management, public policy and advocacy, and community, economic, and workforce development. He will also serve as the lead spokesperson for the chamber and strategic initiatives, representing the organization's interests to the media, elected officials, and all community and organizational stakeholders.

In addition to Johnson, other members of the search committee included Heather Robinson, Cross & Dot, LLC; Esteban de Leon, de Leon Collective; Tricia Massey, Piedmont Athens Regional; Matt Benson, Mahaffey Pickens Tucker, LLP; and Marty Clark, Clark Hill Farms and Chair of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners.