



Georgia Association Fall Meeting Update

November 12, 2004

The GAPB held its fall conference this week at the Marriott Savannah Riverfront hotel. Attendance, while lighter than last year was very enthusiastic. Professor Charles Adams of Savannah State University spoke on the subject of electronic monitoring and how the court's increased interest in this fallible method of supervision is impacting the bail industry in Georgia. The general consensus of those in attendance was that sheriffs and judges need to be made aware of the weaknesses of electronic monitoring i.e. defendants wearing monitors are not being supervised 24/7, monitoring companies are not able to arrest violators and they do not pay bond forfeitures. Court officials and legislators need to be made aware not only of what the deficiencies are with electronic monitoring but the strengths of the private bail bondsman. Bondsman have a financial incentive to get their client to court, and do so at no cost to the tax payer.



Gary Brinson and Mike Whitlock

Elections were held Wednesday afternoon. Scott Hall who went unopposed was elected president while Janice Grimes was elected Vice President. JoAnn Mumper after serving as Treasurer for more than a decade stepped down and John Ranitz, III was voted in as her replacement. Jerod Skelton will replace John Nevil as GAPB Secretary.

Thursday evening GAPB held a dinner honoring its past presidents. Scott Hall, Roger Walker, Bob Raborn and Cathy Joyce all received awards in recognition of their unselfish service while serving as GAPB president. Raymond Phillips performed the MC duties and kept everyone laughing. The night concluded with a prize and cash raffle. Tommy Ford, after going 0 - 24 in the prize raffle, won the half/half cash drawing with the other half going to GAPB.

American Surety Company is a supporter of the Georgia Association and is a strong supporter of insurance backed bail agents, after all that's what we do. We support any candidate that is open to diversity and recognizes there is room for both property and insurance backed bail agents in the state of Georgia. We welcome any questions regarding commercial surety bail and our role, as we see it, in Georgia.

American Surety through its affiliation with the American Bail Coalition (www.americanbailcoalition.com) is focused on preserving commercial surety in this country. We invest thousands of dollars each year to the betterment and preservation of our industry. Georgia bail agents are as professional and disciplined as there is in the country and we are seeking qualified agents to represent American Surety in this state.

- .. **Federal Bonds**
- .. **Transfer Bonds (no split commissions)**
- .. **24/7/365 Underwriting**
- .. **Mono-Line Surety specializing in Bail Bonds**
- .. **BARS Network Agency Management System**

Michael J. Whitlock
American Surety Company
P. O. Box 68932
Indianapolis, IN 46268
800.969.1927
mwhitlock@asc-usi.com