

**2009 Annual Meeting  
Script**

**10:45 – 11:20 Registration/Networking**

**11:00 – Doors Open**

**11:22/25/27/29 – Lights dim encouraging people to take their seats.**

**10:45 – 11:30 – GACC Logo and Sponsor PowerPoint information show on screens**

**11:30 - GACC Logo on screens**

**11:30 - Welcome – Mike Rollins**

Welcome to the Austin Chamber's 131<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting. Our program will begin shortly. In the meantime, please enjoy your meal.

**12:00 – VOG introduces Mike Rollins**

Ladies and Gentlemen please welcome Austin Chamber President, Mike Rollins.

**12:00 - Walking Music until Rollins is at the podium**

**12:00 – Program Begins – Mike Rollins – 5 minutes**

Thank you for your support of the Austin Chamber. We have a very impressive group of attendees today including a number of elected officials I would like to recognize. Please stand and be recognized as your name is called. (Jeremy provides list). (Applause)

I would also like to recognize our Board members and past Chairs. Please stand. (Applause) Thank you for your service to the Chamber and business community.

I would also like to direct your attention to the screens as we recognize our sponsors of this year's event.

Supporting Sponsors (**all screens show list of supporting sponsors**)

Chairman's Sponsors (**all screens show list of Chairman's sponsors**)

Friends of Dr. Forgione, Joe Holt and Paul Bury (**all screens show Friends of list**)

(Applause)

I would now like to introduce the Chamber's 2008 Chairman, Joe Holt, Chairman JPMorgan Chase- Austin Region, who will lead us in this final meeting of his Chairmanship. Joe.

(Applause)

(Mike exits stage)

**12:05 – Holt comes to stage. Walking music until he is on stage, Paul Bury comes to stage and stands by awards table, waits to hand out Volunteer of the Year awards.**

**12:05 - Volunteers of the Year Presentation- Joe Holt – 15 minutes**

All of you here today are a perfect representation of how the members of the Chamber care about and strive to make a difference in our community. Our members are people who give of their time, talent and energy for a better region in which we can all live, work and do business. Today we would like to honor a few especially dedicated volunteers who have put forth the extra effort to help bring to fruition the initiatives, goals and ideas of the many areas of the Austin Chamber. It is even more impressive that this group contributed so much in a year with so much uncertainty.

Please join me in honoring these volunteers by holding your applause until all Volunteers of the Year have made it up on stage.

(As Holt calls volunteers to the stage, 2008 Volunteer Powerpoint on all screens. Paul Bury will hand out awards. All winners will remain on stage until end.)

**Membership Ambassador Program:** Beverly Boyd, ScentAir, has actively worked as an Ambassador for four and a half years, reaching out to new members of the Chamber and serving as a resource. Beverly's presence at Chamber events and loyalty to the business community have aided both Chamber staff and members and led to her being this year's Ambassador of the year.

**Education and Talent Development:** Barry Mayer, Tokyo Electron, and Dave Claunch, Liaison Resources, served as co-chairs for the nation's first Chamber-issued Community College Progress Report. The Chamber identified the key performance indicators of greatest importance to employers and worked with ACC to report their progress as well as their long-term budget and programmatic priorities. This is new ground for both the Chamber and ACC, but promises to be a critical partnership to ensure that employer talent needs are met in the short- and intermediate-term.

**Government Relations:** Bobby Jenkins, ABC Services, served as the Co-Chair of the Keep Austin's Word campaign that successfully defeated Proposition 2 on the ballot last November. Bobby volunteered many hours and brought countless people from the business community together in support of Austin's economic development initiatives.

**Infrastructure:** Rashed Islam, HDR/WHM, led a study as part of the Chamber's Take on Traffic initiative that analyzed the primary traffic congestion choke points in the region in order to identify solutions to improve transportation. This study now serves as

the basis for work at the City of Austin going on right now in their Transportation Department.

**Small Business:** Tim Gillespie, Green Bank, served as Chair of the Small Business Task Force. He attended many of the Small Business events and sponsored the Northwest Business Council as well as the Building Blocks of Business speaker series, for which he played a crucial role in securing many of the guest speakers. Tim has been recognized as a very effective leader by his colleagues and the Chamber.

**Economic Development:** Rick Whiteley, Oxford Commercial, served as the Chair of Business Retention & Expansion and has actively participated as a volunteer with numerous economic development activities throughout the duration of Opportunity Austin. Rick served on the Portfolio Austin Task Force before assuming the role of Chair. He dedicated many hours to guiding the BR&E staff on issues of importance to regional employers and effectively communicated the progress as spokesperson of this initiative.

**Technology:** Jeff Browning, Austin Ventures, was appointed to lead the Chamber's efforts for re-architecting its website AustinHumanCapital.com, which serves as the main portal for the world to understand the depth of Austin's technology community and is a key Chamber strategy to assist the tech community in meeting their talent needs. In 2008, the website went from being static to interactive and dynamic under Jeff's guidance. A new job portal was created on the site, featuring nearly 100 Central Texas technology and life science companies that link to real job opportunities in Central Texas. Thanks to Jeff's leadership, the world now has a portal to view and understand the technology hub that Austin has become.

**Communications:** Ron Dusek, Hilton Austin, has worked for an organization dedicated to service which has carried through to his volunteer efforts on the Communications Council. Ron served as Chair of the Chamber's State of Education in Austin event marketing committee, working eight months with a task force to help engage the business community. Additionally, Ron helped to work with the national press during the Economic Forecast with Chairman Bernanke, and he also found time to help market and promote the annual Media Appreciation Event.

Please join me in recognizing and thanking these outstanding volunteers for all of their hard work.

(Applause. Bury and volunteers return to seats.)

**12:20 – 2008 Chairman Remarks – Joe Holt– 6 minutes**

As 2008 Chair of the Austin Chamber of Commerce, it was my privilege to lead the Chamber in its dedicated work of making the Austin region an even better place to live and work. Each area rounded out their objectives for the year with vigor and prowess and has set exciting new goals to undertake for 2009.

Although for most of the country 2008 proved to be a struggle, for the Chamber and its many initiatives it was an encouraging year. This was never more apparent than when the Chamber hosted Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke at the annual Economic Forecast, which attracted more than 1,700 attendees.

At the Chamber, we have made many adjustments and embraced new directions. We initiated a new Chamber brand, "Connecting Business. Creating Opportunity." with new Building Blocks of Business and Speed Networking programs to add opportunities for our members. Newly reorganized and energized Ambassador and Diplomat volunteer groups have helped to make processes more efficient, relevant and responsive.

We heard you when you told us that technology companies were having trouble finding high level engineers and management, so as part of an initiative to continue attracting and developing top talent to and in the Austin region, we redesigned and marketed AustinHumanCapital.com nationally as an interactive web site for Central Texas and technology job opportunities. We now have 100 companies linked through the job portal, and site traffic continues to grow.

Finally, we have come to the end of the first phase of Opportunity Austin, a five-year, five-county "roadmap for recovery" to rejuvenate the economy and create jobs. Through the hard work of many volunteers, a dedicated staff, regional partners and our local and state government partners, Austin and Central Texas have regained our national buzz as a premiere location for businesses. Through Opportunity Austin, we have surpassed our goals to create 72,000 new jobs and increase payroll in the Central Texas region by \$2.9 billion in five years, with the addition of more than 112,200 new jobs and \$4.9 billion in new wages since the program's inception in 2004. We have worked diligently and kept our promise to the many investors in this award-winning program.

The successful funding and execution of Opportunity Austin 2.0 is crucial, and will secure the Austin and Central Texas region's position as a leading economic engine in world.

None of this would have been possible without the enthusiasm and dedication of hundreds of Chamber members and volunteers who made a commitment to the common goal of making a better life for Austin's many generations to come. You all have my gratitude, my admiration and my undivided support as we move into a brand new year.

**12:26 – Joe Holt introduces previous Austinite of the Year video – 1 minute**

And on that note, I would like to move on to our Austinite of the Year presentation. Before we talk about this year's recipient, Dr. Pat Forgione, I'll ask you to direct your attention to the screens around the room as we take a look at the distinguished circle of honor that he is about to join.

**12:27 - Previous Austinite of Year Power Point runs (Past AOTY)\*\*\*need canned music\*\*\* - 1 minute**

**12:28 – Joe Holt recognizes past AOTY winners – 1 minute**

I think you will agree that this is quite an impressive group. I would like to ask the past recipients of the Austinite of the Year award who are here today to stand and be recognized. (Applause)

**12:29 – Joe Holt Introduces Austinite of the Year and Video – 2 minutes**

It is with much enthusiasm, gratitude and praise that I- along with all of you- have the opportunity to honor Pat Forgione for all of the work he has done for Central Texas and the Chamber. Pat has done so much to not only achieve A++ bond rating and improve academic achievement to position Austin Independent School District as one of the top two urban school districts in the nation, but also build the morale and dedication of teachers and students alike. It is Pat's leadership, diligence and dedication to Austin and education that have earned him this year's honor as the Chamber's Austinite of the Year.

**12:31 – Austinite of the Year video— 8 minutes**

**12:39 – As the video ends Holt calls Forgione to the stage**

Ladies and Gentleman, your 2008 Austinite of the Year, Pat Forgione

(Applause)

**12:39 –Walking music begins as Forgione walks to stage.**

Pat, it is my honor as the Chairman of the Austin Chamber of Commerce to present you with the 2008 Austinite of the Year Award.

**12:40 -- Holt presents Forgione with the award.**

**12:40 – Forgione--Austinite of the Year Remarks – 5 minutes- Holt to remain on stage**

(Pat provides own comments)

**12:45 - Forgione leaves the stage following applause**

**12:45 – Joe Holt introduces Paul Bury as the 2009 Chairman**

We have reached the point in the program where I introduce my successor and then get booted off the stage. You know, it would be easy to sit back in the corner to reflect on my time as Chairman and all of our great accomplishments, but that just won't suffice. None of us can sit back and rely on others to do the work for us. The moment we do this, we will begin to lose site of where we have been and where we are going. Let me now introduce the person who will lead us along this new and remarkable path towards the future. Please join me in welcoming the Chamber's 2009 Chairman, Paul Bury.

**12:46 - Walking music until Bury is on stage**

**12:46 – 2009 Chairman Remarks & Close – 10 minutes- Joe stays on stage**

Thank you.

Ladies and Gentleman, I have been given the task of leading the Chamber at a time when we are heading down a new and challenging path. This is thanks to the efforts of the Board, staff and volunteers that were all skillfully led by Mr. Joe Holt.

Surprise text for Joe...

In all seriousness, and as a token of our immense appreciation, I would also like to present Joe with this yearbook filled with reminders of all the great initiatives he took part in, the announcements we have celebrated and the many successful Chamber events that have passed during his time as Chair. Please join me in thanking Joe for his first-class leadership.

(Applause)

**Joe Holt exits stage**

**Paul Bury:**

It is an honor and a privilege to serve the Austin Chamber of Commerce. I may have been elected as the Chair, but I assure you that there is a strong team of dedicated leaders behind me and you every step of the way.

I begin my year as Chairman with much excitement and, I must admit, with some nervous anticipation of what 2009 has in store for us. The Chamber has reached a new and interesting position. We have spent the past few years gradually finding our way back to a thriving Austin. Now we have reached the point where we can make decisions, not based on what's the best way to get back to the road, but what's the best new road to take for the most promising future. It is only with a well-designed three to five year strategic plan and vision that we can deliver the most influence to the community.

There are many initiatives the Chamber has begun over the last few years to rebuild our momentum in economic development and to better address our members needs. All of those accomplishments are listed in the Chamber's Annual Report which will be on route to your offices this week. I won't read these to you because I would prefer to talk about where we are going in the future.

Today, I want to share with you how we plan to achieve this vision for the Chamber in 2009. Our leadership is essential. More than ever, we need to have a meaningful, strong public/private sector partnership.

We need to be able to better explain the community impact and value of membership and, even more importantly, participation in the Chamber. To accomplish this we need a long-term plan for showing the community the value of becoming a trusted Chamber member while retaining existing members with captivating and educational program and events. We must work with the thousands of businesses in Austin to communicate our overall

message: the Chamber is here to connect businesses and create opportunities, no matter the size or purpose of your company.

From education and talent development to transportation and economic development, together we have moved the Central Texas region onward to become one of the most competitive places in the country to live and do business. All of these are areas that need to not only continue but grow stronger with the support of our members and the community.

With all this underway, the Chamber is better positioned than ever to deal with the challenges ahead. Needless to say it will be a busy year- but a very exciting one. I look forward to working with the membership and collaborating with an array of organizations in 2009 as we continue to build on our success. It is with your commitment and participation that we can continue to move forward and ensure the success of businesses in Central Texas.

Thank you for your continued membership and your support.

**12:56 – As people leave, GACC Logo and Sponsors Powerpoint play on all three screens.**

**12:56 - End**