

ATLANTA-TBILISI SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

“BRINGING TOGETHER THE TWO GEORGIA’S”

INTRODUCTION:

Members and Friends,

Thank you again for the pleasure of serving with you. Your contributions have made the first half of 2008 enormously successful. The Committee is setting goals and achieving them. I personally thank each of you for your input into our Strategic Plan, which sets out our Committee’s purpose for its first 2 years. And we are recognizing the fulfillment of that purpose in humanitarian, charitable, healthcare, and governmental areas:

- Letha Nesbitt—head of our Humanitarian Subcommittee and wife of TAG Nesbitt— traveled to Georgia just two months ago for educational outreach, and is now developing a plan to integrate our resources with those of public schools in Georgia;
- Kenneth Walker, M.D. and Archil Undalishvili continue their lifelong efforts to improve the healthcare system in Georgia in both the quality of its facilities and the quality of its training;
- Local Georgians graciously hosted receptions for the visiting Georgian attorneys in April;
- Specialist David Papava is taking the lead on developing ways to transport used medical equipment to Georgia. *Special thanks to David Constant of the Mayor’s Office for his willingness to assist;
- The Committee’s friend, Professor Paul J. Zwier, II, of Emory University, led Georgian attorneys in a week long intensive training course in jury trial techniques, which will benefit both attorneys and citizens in Georgia as jury trials begin there in 2009.



Your efforts are indeed bringing together the two Georgia’s. Now, in the coming months, we look to expand our financial resources to continue these efforts, and to involve the local Georgian community in this process. See you at our next meeting on July 17th!

With Gratitude, John E. Hall, Jr., Chairman



April, 2008—Georgian attorneys, Committee members, and hosts from Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, P.C. attend a reception.

Inside This Issue:

- ♦ ATSCC Hosts Georgian Lawyers
- ♦ Local Georgians Support Georgian Attorneys
- ♦ **Spotlight On:** Partners for International Development
- ♦ Meeting Reminder: The next scheduled meeting of the ATSCC is July 17th, 2008

Reminder!

Next ATSCC Committee Meeting: 6:30 P.M., July 17th, Offices of Hall, Booth, Smith and Slover, 1180 West Peachtree St., Suite 900, Atlanta 30309. For directions, see www.hbss.net, or call 404-954-5000.

ATSCC HOSTS GEORGIAN LAWYERS

From April 26th - May 3rd, Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover P.C. hosted a delegation of Georgian attorneys for a visit sponsored by the Open World Leadership Program in conjunction with the National Peace Foundation. The attorneys traveled to Atlanta to attend a jury-trial training program at Emory University. Such training is integral to these Georgians as they seek to implement jury trials back in Georgia beginning in 2009. These young attorneys hope to partner with the Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee, Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, P.C., and Emory University's Center for International Law & Comparative Studies, to continue this educational process. This force will reach hundreds of attorneys in Georgia and thousands of citizens.



Delegation at the Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee Reception

They had a very full week of classroom training under the teaching of Professor Paul Zwier and Elizabeth Markowitz. Further, the attorneys were able to witness jury trials firsthand at the Fulton and Dekalb County courts. The Atlanta-Tbilisi Sister City Committee hosted a reception for the attorneys the final night of their visit, May 2, 2008. In attendance were many Committee members, our local Georgian friends, and David Constant from the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office.

LOCAL GEORGIANS SUPPORT GEORGIAN ATTORNEYS



Nino Sukishvili's historic Buckhead home

In addition to the Committee's support, notable Georgians in the Atlanta area pitched in to welcome the Georgian attorneys. Dr. Andro Kacharava, one of the first Georgian physicians to practice in the Atlanta area, hosted a reception in honor of the visitors. Zaza Pachulia, Atlanta Hawks basketball player, along with Archil Undilashvili hosted a barbecue dinner at his home. Nino Sukishvili, the head of the Georgian State Dance Company, hosted a reception at her historic home in Buckhead. Finally, Dr. Kenneth Walker hosted a barbecue outdoors at his home, attended by Georgians from here and abroad.

The Committee applauds these exceptional efforts and looks forward to the continued support of our Georgian friends.

SPOTLIGHT ON: PARTNERS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Partners for International Development had its beginnings in 1992 as the Atlanta-Tbilisi Health Care Partnership, when the U.S. State Department asked Emory University School of Medicine to begin a hospital-to hospital partnership with the country of Georgia. PfID is a coalition of physicians, nurses, public health faculty, scholars, researchers, scientists, health care administrators and lawyers from Emory, Georgia State and the Atlanta community. These individuals initially worked together as the Atlanta-Tbilisi Health Care Partnership. In 2003 the partnership began PfID, a 501c3 organization formed specifically to spearhead and facilitate the activities of the partners with Georgia. Since the early days of its existence the partnership has been supplying the newly independent Georgia with expertise in health care, education, information systems, agriculture, etc.



Dr. Kenneth Walker receives the USAID Outstanding Citizenship award on behalf of Partners for International Development

Some of the more significant accomplishments of the partnership are:

- Developing the first Western style Pediatric Emergency Room in the former Soviet Union. The partnership received the USAID Outstanding Citizenship Award for these efforts.
- Establishing the National Information Learning Center, which brings the world of scientific and medical data in electronic form to Georgia.
- Founding by Georgia State University of the Caucasus School of Business, producing BBA and MBA graduates.
- Developing a curriculum and faculty to train practicing nurses and middle level health care managers.
- Bringing over fifty physicians to Emory to do their postgraduate residency training, and fifteen Georgians to get their MPH.
- Exchanges with Emory and Georgia State students and Georgian students.

Currently the partnership is developing Western style emergency services throughout the country, funded by a USAID grant. This will include training physicians, nurses and administrators in emergency medicine, establishing telemedicine, developing an emergency network throughout the country, strengthening the pre-hospital care service and developing emergency medicine as a specialty with a residency program. A Learning Center is being established that will upgrade the skills of nurses, physicians and administrators throughout the country. ATSCC committee members Dr. Ken Walker and Archil Undilashvili have been instrumental in helping the PfID achieve these impressive results. The ATSCC looks forward to working with the PfID to continue "bringing together the two Georgia's."