



MEET THE COMMITTEE

OPENING DAY



Gerlda Hines, LC'20

State Accounting Officer, Georgia State Accounting Office

Favorite LC Memory: Fall Retreat, meeting all of my classmates and connecting.

Advice for LC'25: Be intentional about staying engaged and getting to know your classmates. Oh and know your cards!



Corey Ferguson, LC'23

Vice-President / Principal, T. Dallas Smith & Company

Favorite LC Memory: Meeting my classmates during opening day! ALSO...Fall Retreat!!!

Advice for LC'25: Embrace the journey. Be present. Smile, laugh, hug, high-five and enjoy!



John Alday, LC'24

Partner, Johnson & Alday

Favorite LC Memory: Down time at Fall Retreat, Spring Retreat, and on the bus

Advice for LC'25: Participate 100%--talk to everyone, go to the Happy Hours if you can, and capitalize on this year to make connections and friends!

Amy Selby, LC'15

EVP of Marketing and Communications, Cobb Chamber of Commerce



Favorite LC Memory: Presenting mountains of journals to our Class Co-Chairs, Bonnie and Stewart at Spring Retreat

Advice for LC'25: Your time as a class member is limited and so special. Don't wait for any length of time to commit to your own personal/professional growth and to strengthening the bond of your class. Every program day has opportunities for connection -- seize them!

Matt Patterson, LC'22

President, Commercial Roof Solutions



Favorite LC Memory: Fall Retreat. Spending a few days with some of the greatest people I will ever meet.

Advice for LC'25: Experience it all. It will fly by, and you will miss the time you spend with your class.

Carey Merritt, LC'10

Director of Operations, The Junior League of Atlanta



Favorite LC Memory: A special moment in Armed Forces Day!

Advice for LC'25: Take time to get to know everyone in your class. Enjoy every moment. It flies by!



Debbie Ponder, LC'13

Sales Manager, Suddath

Favorite LC Memory: Retreat sharing your special item. It was very meaningful.

Advice for LC'25: Enjoy every minute. Time goes fast but friendships you make last forever.

Sheree Knowles, LC'23

Chief Executive Officer, HR Knowledge Source

Favorite LC Memory: One of my favorite Leadership Cobb experiences was the retreat, where we truly got to know each other beyond our titles and workplaces. This immersive time allowed us to connect on a personal level, building genuine relationships that transcended professional roles. Sharing stories, challenges, and aspirations fostered a deep sense of camaraderie and trust, laying the foundation for a supportive and collaborative network. This retreat was a pivotal moment that highlighted the power of authentic connections in leadership.



Advice for LC'25: Embrace this journey with an open mind and a collaborative spirit. Leverage every opportunity to learn from diverse perspectives and experiences, as this will enrich your leadership skills and community impact. Cultivate meaningful connections with your peers, mentors, and community leaders, and remember that true leadership is about service, integrity, and fostering positive change. Stay curious, stay committed, and let your passion for making a difference guide you through this transformative experience.



Chris Fiore, LC'24

Chief Communications Officer, Marietta City Schools

Favorite LC Memory: Winning every competition even if the judges and scores define win differently than we did!

Advice for LC'25: Dive in head first. It's a worthwhile commitment!



Lisa Sunday, LC'23

Commercial Relationship Manager/SVP, SouthState Bank

Favorite LC Memory: There are so many wonderful memories, it's hard to choose just one. Fall Retreat was one of my top favorites since that is where you can forge relationships with your classmates and get a glimpse of how this experience can impact your life.

Advice for LC'25: Know your cards!!!!



Lawson Kirkland, LC'17

EVP, Commercial Banking Manager, Servis First Bank

Favorite LC Memory: Spring Fall Retreat

Advice for LC'25: Embrace the moment, each program day, and develop relationships with your classmates.



Karen Hill, LC'22

Vice President, HM Plumbing

Favorite LC Memory: How can you pick just one!?

Advice for LC'25: Jump in with feet first. Don't hold back and don't second guess yourself.



Peter Hortman, LC'18

Client Service Manager, Heath & Lineback Engineers

Favorite LC Memory: Leadership Discussions w/ local leaders like Doug Hertz from United Distributors

Advice for LC'25: Get out of your comfort zone. Stay in contact post-graduation



Jessica Lee, LC'23

Director, Ticket Operations, Atlanta Braves

Favorite LC Memory: Spring Retreat!

Advice for LC'25: Drink the Kool-Aid! You really do get out what you put in. Take the time to get to know all of your classmates!

MEMORIES



Amber Burckhalter, LC'15

Consultant, Pet Industry, Leashwise

Favorite LC Memory: Dewitt with tattoos

Advice for LC'25: Be as present as possible and just let LC happen.



Matt Giddens, LC'23

Director, IT Engineering and Architecture, Atlanta Braves

Favorite LC Memory: Spring Retreat. So many lifelong memories were made during those few days.

Advice for LC'25: Embrace everything that this program offers you. Go to every social gathering that you can. Get out of your comfort zone. Get to know everyone on a close, personal level because these will be some of your closest friends for the rest of your life.