



Partner
America™



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CONTACT
Jill Fleekop 407.563.8684
jfleekop@amserv.com

**PARTNERAMERICA™ AND SAVANNAH MAYOR OTIS
JOHNSON HOST SUCCESSFUL SMALL BUSINESS
CONFERENCE**

Savannah, GA – (March 20, 2008) – Once again, Savannah’s small business community responded to the call for small business to band together by attending a small business conference hosted by the Honorable Otis Johnson, the Department of Economic Development and *PartnerAmerica*™.

PartnerAmerica™ is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Conference of Mayors and American Management Services, Inc., dedicated solely to small business growth by maximizing profits and sales.

“Sustaining Your Business” was the theme for the conference, with well over 300 area small business owners in attendance. After opening remarks by the Mayor and Assistant City Manager, Rochelle Small-Toney the conference began its roster of events. Workshops included “Doing Business with the Federal Government with Mildred Quinley, Executive Officer, General Services Administration. A roundtable discussion on “Sustaining Your Business for Long Term Success” with a multitude of local experts and successful business people followed.

The keynote address was delivered by George A. Cloutier, CEO of American Management Services, Inc. and Co-Chairman of *PartnerAmerica*™. Mr. Cloutier spoke about the current state of the economy and specific challenges the small business owner faces.

Mr. Cloutier was quick to point out, “with today’s economic climate, the small business owner needs to be constantly exposed to all information, contacts and resources so they can not just survive, but still continue to grow their business. This conference serves as an excellent opportunity to take advantage of local, regional and national resources that the area small business owner can be exposed to and then take action.”

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Cloutier is the nation's leading small business expert and advocate, and a recent recipient of the first ever *U.S. Conference of Mayors Small Business Leadership Award* for his tireless efforts on behalf of small business nationwide. In addition, he continues to be a frequent guest commentator for Fox Business News, CNBC and other national media outlets.

American Management Services, Inc.

George A. Cloutier is Co-Chairman and CEO of American Management Services and Co-Chairman of Partner America™. Cloutier is the nation's leading small business expert, bringing more than 30 years of small business experience to his roles as Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of American Management Services, Inc. He founded the company in 1986 to offer implementation-based profit-maximization services to privately held, small and mid-sized business owners. Over the last 21 years, Cloutier has forged more than 6,000 client relationships in 400 industries, realizing over \$1 billion in savings for his clients, 40% of which are family-owned businesses. He has grown American Management Services from a one-man operation to a 120 employee company with offices on the East Coast. For more information, please contact American Management Services, Inc. at 800.743.0402 or visit their website at www.amserv.com.

PartnerAmerica™

PartnerAmerica™ is a unique, small business growth program developed by American Management Services, Inc. and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Formed in 2000, the program is the nation's first public-private small business resource initiative, providing management expertise, technical assistance and educational opportunities to small businesses across the country. Currently, Cloutier serves as Co-Chairman of Partner America™, along with Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director of USCM.

U.S. Conference of Mayors

For over 75 years, the United States Conference of Mayors has served as the official non-partisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more, focusing on the development and implementation of national urban policies impacting the sustainable development and growth of cities across the United States. The official website for USCM is www.usmayors.org.