



GEORGIA Amusement JOURNAL

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Dedicated to serving the Georgia COAM industry
Endorsed by the Georgia Amusement and Music Operators Association
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GAMOA reviewing ordinances

Association announces 20 percent cut in dues

By Paul Tash

Georgia Amusement Journal

The Georgia Amusement and Music Operators Association (GAMOA) continues to combat a variety of likely illegal local ordinances that seek to restrict COAMs in some way and announced a 20 percent cut in dues for master licensees at its meeting Nov. 6.

The dues reduction follows the conclusion a few years ago of some successful but expensive legal battles the COAM industry waged that required additional dues to fund.

"We've been working on this," said GAMOA Vice President Salim Khambawala, who chairs GAMOA's membership committee. "Finally, the association is in a position to reduce and scale it down in the coming years."

The announcement was met with a rousing round of applause.

Regarding the harmful local ordinances, longtime GAMOA attorney and lobbyist Les Schneider

said the association is continuing to address some local ordinances that have caused some concerns in the last year for COAM licensees.

A specific issue Schneider mentioned was an ordinance enacted by the city of Jonesboro that limited locations that serve alcohol to three or fewer machines. Schneider

said the restriction "clearly goes against" a Supreme

Court ruling that rejected an attempt by the city of Clarkson a few years ago to prohibit machines where alcohol is sold. A unanimous

Georgia Supreme Court in the Clarkson case ruled

that the city's attempt to prohibit the machines from locations that sold alcohol "was beyond the scope of state law" and that state law preempted local law on the matter.

GAMOA has sent a letter to the Jonesboro city attorney to protest the ordinance and "hopefully get this issue resolved," Schneider said.

Another issue Schneider high-

See **ORDINANCES** Page 18



Paul Tash photo

GAMOA PRESIDENT Mike Patel, right, and Vice President Salim Khambawala announced at the Nov. 6 meeting that dues for members are decreasing by 20 percent. Now would be a good time to join the premier COAM association in the country.



Manufacturers provide product updates

By Paul Tash

Georgia Amusement Journal

JVL and Ivey Promotions, two Georgia COAM manufacturers that sponsored the Nov. 6 GAMOA meeting, provided attendees some new information on their products.

JVL introduced the M-Deck after seeing consistent feedback from Georgia operators who wanted a "tougher, traditional button option" for certain locations, said Felipe

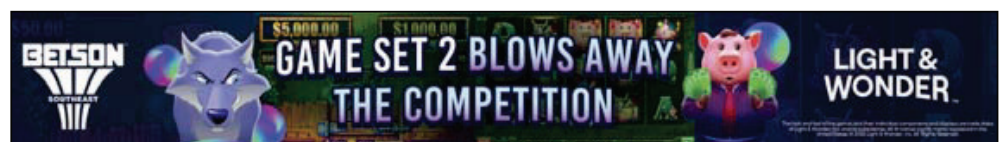
Miranda, senior sales executive for JVL.

"The V-Deck continues to perform extremely well statewide, but some environments simply call for a different style of interface," he said.

The M-Deck provides that choice without changing the platform, software, or performance, he added.

"It's not a move away from innovation," Miranda said. "It's an expansion of options, letting operators match

See **PRODUCTS** Page 14



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... and more!

Journal Opinion

GACS hosts sporting clay competition

Angela Holland
GACS President

The GACS PAC 12th Annual Sporting Clay Competition is right around the corner!

The event is set for Thursday, Nov. 20, at Meadows National Gun Club in Forsyth, GA. Lunch starts at 11 a.m., and competition kicks off at noon.

Shooters can register individually or as a four-person team. Registration includes 100 clay targets, ammunition, protective gear, golf carts, and lunch – plus the guaranteed good time that comes with great company!

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this tradition. Space is limited, so secure your spot now. Can't make it this year? We would still greatly appreciate your support as a sponsor!

If you have any questions, contact Nancy McPherson at nmcperson@gacs.com.

Scholarships available

We're excited to announce that the GACS scholarship application process for the 2026-27 academic year is now open through Jan. 31. Winners will be selected by an independent committee and announced by the end of April. Checks will be disbursed in May.



Angela Holland

Since 2004, GACS has proudly awarded scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 to eligible employees whose membership is in good standing and their children. We encourage all who qualify to apply and take advantage of this great opportunity!

Only one completed application is required to be eligible, and only one scholarship will be awarded per applicant. Winners must enroll as full-time students in the fall of 2026. Eligible institutions include four-year and two-year colleges or universi-



ties, as well as technical, vocational, and certificate programs.

To be considered for a GACS Scholarship, applicants must:

- Be a current high school senior or college freshman, sophomore, or junior.
- Be an employee of a GACS member company or a dependent child of a GACS member company employee.
- Have at least one year of continuous service (as of Jan. 1, 2026) at a GACS member company.
- Be employed (or have a

parent/guardian employed) at a GACS member company at the time of award announcements (end of April 2026).

Here are the available scholarships:

- \$2,000 Brittany Schmeelk Scholarship
 - \$2,000 Jim Tudor Scholarship
 - \$2,000 Hayes Bryan Scholarship – sponsored by McLane Co.
 - \$2,000 Susie Q Foods Scholarship – sponsored by Susie Q's Foods
 - \$1,500 B Average Scholarships – Two scholarships
 - \$1,500 Grady Lewis Memorial Scholarship – sponsored by Friendly Express
 - \$1,000 Business School Student Scholarship
 - \$1,000 Circle K Scholarships – Two scholarships sponsored by Circle K
 - \$1,000 Flowers Bakeries Group Scholarships – Two scholarships sponsored by Flowers Bakeries Group
 - \$1,000 Nancy Bivings Scholarship
 - \$1,000 Nomination-Based Scholarships – Two scholarships
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 - \$1,000 Outstanding Extracurricular Activity, Arts, and/or Sports Scholarship
 - \$1,000 Supplier Appreciation Scholarship – anonymous donor
- Contact Nancy at nmcperson@gacs.com to get the process started.

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COAM calendar

Jan. 20: Gross retail receipts for October, November and December are due. The gross retail receipts must be submitted electronically through the COAM website at www.gacoam.com. Failure to report on time may result in penalties.

— MEETINGS/OTHER —

March 16-19: Amusement Expo International, Las Vegas, Las Vegas Convention Center

Write us

The Georgia Amusement Journal welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must include the writer's name and address. The word limit is 300. Mail to the Georgia Amusement Journal, P.O. Box 4307, Butte MT 59702, or email paul@tashcommunications.com. The Journal reserves the right not to print letters it finds objectionable.

Journal Opinion

State Council Meeting set for January

Lori Schneider
AMOA Executive Director

Although the government is shut down as of this writing, AMOA continues advocating for our industry as we're able on the "debanking" issue and other pieces of legislation such as the Payment Choice Act and the Safe Access to Cash Act.

State Council Meeting

Jan. 28-30, 2026
Orlando, FL

The AMOA State Council Meeting is conducted each year to provide states with the opportunity to come together to collaborate and share valuable information on legislative and other activity occurring in their respective areas of the country.

Invited attendees include state association executives, state association volunteer leadership and industry partners.



Lori Schneider

The AMOA State Council Meeting provides states an opportunity to collaborate and share valuable information.



Here are some of the topics to be discussed at the 2026 gathering:

- National Legislative Update – John Russell, DGA Group
- Strategies for Getting Ahead of Issues
- Top Tips to Fortify and Build Your Legislative Relationships
- Empowering States with Ideas for Member Engagement
- Open Forum – Ask your questions and gather feedback
- Gaming Update from Paul Jensen, Taft Law

Program details are available at amoa.com or by emailing Lori Schneider at lori@amoa.com.

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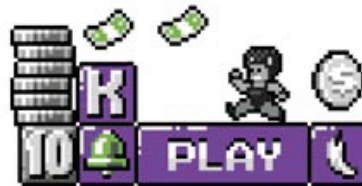
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Retail Matters

Parker reflects on 50-year career

By Linda Lisanti
Convenience Store News

Greg Parker is passionate about the convenience store industry. For the past 50 years, he has been at the helm of Parker's Kitchen, growing the brand, mentoring his team and giving back in transformative ways to the communities in which the retailer operates.

Under his leadership, the Savannah, GA-based chain has expanded from one c-store in Midway, GA, to 100-plus locations across Georgia and South Carolina, employing more than 1,800 team members and completing 1.1 million transactions every week.

Parker's Kitchen is now in the midst of an ambitious growth strategy that will see the chain move into new markets from Myrtle Beach, SC, down to Jacksonville, FL – all the while, staying true to its mission to redefine convenience by offering customers high-quality products, freshly prepared Southern-inspired food and superior cus-



Convenience Store News photo

GREG PARKER has expanded Parker's Kitchen from one c-store to 100 in 50 years. He was named Retailer Executive of the Year recently by Convenience Store News.

tomer service.

In early December, Parker will be honored as the 2025 Convenience Store News Retailer Execu-

tive of the Year, an annual award that recognizes a c-store retailer executive who exemplifies leadership, business acumen, dedication

to the convenience channel, and commitment to community service.

Parker, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2020, recently transitioned from the CEO seat to the role of executive chairman at Parker's Kitchen, but remains actively involved in the business. He recently sat down with CSNews to reflect on his career and contributions, discuss his leadership style and share what's still to come.

CSN: What does it mean to you to be named the Retailer Executive of the Year?

Parker: It's a profound honor, and I'm so thankful for Convenience Store News making this a possibility for me. It makes me reflect on all the people that have come before me – people that I absolutely admired so much, previous winners of this honor. I've been doing it for 50 years now, so I feel a little bit like John Wayne when they finally gave him an Academy Award for some crummy role that

(Continued on Page 11)

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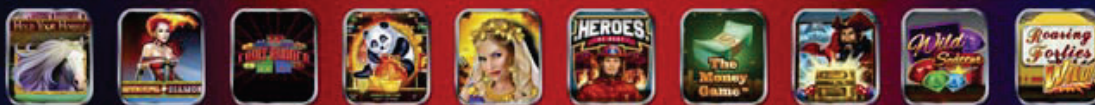




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(Continued from Page 8)
he played (laughing). But I am truly deeply honored.

You know, I'm so passionate about this industry. I love it. I eat it. I breathe it. I care about it deeply. I've been very involved with it for 50 years of my life and I'm going to continue to be involved in it.

CSN: When you founded Parker's back in 1976 with a single store, what drew you to the convenience store industry and what did you set out to create?

Parker: Well, what drew me to the industry is my father was an Amoco jobber. I-95 was just opening. He had three or four counties where you could sell gasoline and there was only one exit that touched I-95. So right out of college, at 21, I finished the construction of this convenience store and went to work. I worked every day for three and a half years and it was a great opportunity for me.

It was hard, you know, opening up when it was dark, closing up after it was dark, mowing the grass, cleaning the toilets, cleaning up the cigarette butts, changing the light fixtures. Back then, it was all full-service gas, so you pump the gas, you clean the windshield, you check everything under the hood, and hope that you might be able to sell them some windshield washer

solvent or transmission fluid. And then, I'd run to the back and cook if they wanted to eat. I did the books. I did everything.

And I got to tell you, it's interesting that even then I believed in having a differentiated experience. My mother had helped do the interior of the store. We had red, white and blue carpeted floors. We had paneled walls, nice bathrooms, and people would walk in and go, 'Oh my God, look, what is this.' I'm just lucky that I stuck with it, and I'm lucky that I was in a growing part of the world, and I'm lucky that I had such great team members.

CSN: What has remained the same about Parker's, and what is different today?

Parker: The thing that's the same is that we have steadfastly focused on providing the best experience and by that I mean our architecture is best in class, our bathrooms are best in class. We think about every detail in our stores. (Co-CEO) Brandon Hofmann* and I design everything that goes into the stores, whether that's picking out the light fixtures or the tile that's on the floor or the laminate we're using on cabinets or ... what the faucets are going to be, how the hands are dried, or laying out the kitchen details and all that.

Even at the very beginning, I

knew it was important to say to the consumer that when you come to Parker's, you're going to have a differentiated, hopefully elevated, experience. And I knew back then, but not to the degree I do now, that the thing that's changed is in order for us to be able to deliver on our promise to the consumer – which is fast, fresh and friendly – you've got to have a remarkable team. (In the past) I was really tough on our people. I was so afraid of failing that I was too tough. And while I was able to create a team back then, now I'm saying we've got to have the best team in the industry. And so, one of our goals is we're focused on being the best place to work. Total focus on our team members, trying to deserve for them to want to work for us.

It's been a learning challenge because I wasn't always the best and now I've learned to be more inclusive, nicer, a better listener and really paying it forward to the people we work with.

CSN: Parker's Kitchen recently celebrated its 100th store opening. How would you describe the significance of this milestone both to you personally and to the organization?

Parker: Achieving 100 stores was a big deal. Something that we've always really focused on is

growth, and we needed to have smart growth. We needed to be doing the things necessary, so we could be that company that had a fortress balance sheet that would allow us to be able to compete with anyone. Having a negative breakeven cents per gallon, we can lose money on gas and we're still profitable. There aren't many big companies in America that can make that claim.

We celebrated at our Store No. 100. It was a wonderful thing for our team members and to bring back people that helped get us here, older team members that have now retired. But being the competitive group that we are, we immediately said now we've got another goal and that is to open 100 more stores in the next five years. So, we did a big loan in excess of \$1 billion. We've got a bank of stores that we own, other stores that we have under contract, other stores we have in permitting. Our goal is to start two new stores every month and open two new stores every month, so 24 stores a year.

In the next four to five years, we will double in size, which means we'll go from almost 2,000 employees to over 4,000 employees. It's a big, hairy, audacious goal as I like to say. People like being a part of an organization that's growing. It's really exciting.

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Products

from Page 1

each location with the deck that fits it best while keeping the reliability they expect from JVL.”

JVL will introduce its new Georgia software package, Jackpot Rush, early next year, he added.

“It brings a fresh lineup of titles designed specifically for the COAM market, with pacing and gameplay built to keep players engaged across a wide range of locations,” Miranda said.

Jackpot Rush will run seamlessly on both the V-Deck and the new M-Deck, he added, “giving operators a smooth transition into next year’s updates.”

Ivey customization

Aleksy Garczynsk, Ivey Promotions operations manager, showed the company’s 43-inch Ivey cabinet with a Goldfinger monitor.

“It’s 100 percent customizable,” he said, “so if you want to change it from a vertical to a dual-screen, we can do so. If you want to change it from a dual-screen to a skyriser-type situation, we can do so.”

Customization is easy, he said, with just six screws needing re-



FELIPE MIRANDA, above left, talks with Butler Avenue’s Frank Morris about JVL products at the Nov. 6 GAMOA meeting. Miranda is JVL’s senior sales

move to adjust the screen.

“You only need one person to do it because it has hooks, so the screen doesn’t just fall off,” Garczynsk said.

Accessing the machine is easy, as well, he said.

“When you open it, the screen goes up and a belly door goes down, so it allows for a lot more



Paul Tash photos

executive. Above right, Aleksy Garczynsk, operations manager for Ivey Promotions, shows the company’s customizable cabinet.

access,” Garczynsk said.

Ivey added exterior bill validator doors, so the cash box can be pulled out without having to open the machine, he said, eliminating the possibility of location staff accidentally messing with wiring inside.

“This way they can only reach the cash box and nothing else, so everything’s more secure,” he said.

A separate lock is available for the outside of the cash box, he said, adding that custom locks for other parts of the cabinet are also available. Ivey Promotions also has all cabinet parts in stock to ensure a quick repair or customization.

“We can do card-reader systems, TITO printers ... whatever people want in the machine, we can make it work,” Garczynsk said.



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Ordinances

from Page 1

lighted was a zoning ordinance implemented by the city of Tucker that attempts to “zone out”

COAMs in certain areas of the city.

“Once again, I think that is contrary to state law,” he said, and could result in litigation. The issue, he said, has the potential to become “a wildfire in every single city and county in the state of Georgia” if not resolved.

GAMOA is also addressing a number of other questionable city or county ordinances relating to

COAMs, and Schneider encouraged licensees to notify the association if they hear of other local problems.

Schneider identified another issue the COAM industry has encountered: the controversial practice by some master licensees of paying licensees “over and above the cost of a kiosk” to a location owner, which could be viewed as an illegal inducement. The Georgia Lottery Corp. (GLC) is currently reviewing the practice and will issue an advisory opinion on the matter, and Schneider said a legal or legislative action to resolve the issue will likely be necessary.

Legislative plans

In other action, Bo Butler from Butler Avenue Partners, which is a lobbying firm recently hired by GAMOA to help with legislative issues, said that although no industry legislation is currently planned, the association will be monitoring issues in the upcoming General Assembly and react if an opportunity arises for legislation that can help the industry. He also said they will be watching for any potentially harmful legislation and act quickly to diffuse it.

Noting the many legislative and statewide political races coming up next year, Schneider urged licensees “more than ever” to get to know their local legislators and educate them about the industry and its many benefits and financially



Bo Butler

support those lawmakers who support the industry.

“You are the constituents of those people,” he said. “This is a good way for you all not only to get to know your senator or representative,” he added, but to ensure “they see the industry support.”

“It makes a tremendous difference,” he said.

In other business, GAMOA members unanimously approved the nominations of four current board members: President Mike Patel of Ultimate Amusements, Vice President Khambawala of Dixie Amusements, Secretary Mark Brooks of One Georgia Coin, and Director Ryan O'Donnell of Double Down Gaming.

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Decommission COAMs correctly

The proper procedure to decommission coin-operated amusement machines (COAMs) can be found on the COAM Division website, www.gacoam.com. The COAM decommission procedure should be followed when there is:

- A change of master, change of ownership, or cancellation letter received by GLC;
- A COAM game board swapped out with a different game;
- A COAM malfunction.

To proceed with the decommissioning:

1. Call Intralot before disconnecting the COAMs from a location and removing those COAMs. The Master License Holder (MLH) needs to contact the Intralot Hotline at 877-261-6242 to properly decommission COAMs. The COAMs must be connected to the site controller at this time.

2. Intralot will let you know when the COAMs are decommissioned. The Intralot representative will perform steps on the Intralot system that prepares the COAMs for the decommission. Once the steps are complete, Intralot will notify the MLH the machines have been decommissioned.

3. Disconnect decommissioned COAMs from the site controller.

Keep COAMs connected

To ensure accurate reporting of financial data to the Central Accounting System, the Georgia Lottery Corporation (GLC) says it is imperative the Location License Holders (LLHs) ensure all equipment remains connected to the site controller and powered up at all times.

The GLC maintains a record of those LLHs that are repeat offenders of failing to ensure the continuous connectivity and operation of Class B COAMs.

Failure to comply with these procedures may result in fines up to \$50,000, suspension and/or revocation of the license.

COIN OPERATED AMUSEMENT MACHINE LOCATION SWEEP AND MASTER PUSH CALENDAR



ACCOUNTING WEEK START	ACCOUNTING WEEK END	LOCATION SWEEP DATE	MASTER PUSH DATE
29-Jun-25	05-Jul-25	09-Jul-25	15-Jul-25
06-Jul-25	12-Jul-25	16-Jul-25	22-Jul-25
13-Jul-25	19-Jul-25	23-Jul-25	29-Jul-25
20-Jul-25	26-Jul-25	30-Jul-25	05-Aug-25
27-Jul-25	02-Aug-25	06-Aug-25	12-Aug-25
03-Aug-25	09-Aug-25	13-Aug-25	19-Aug-25
10-Aug-25	16-Aug-25	20-Aug-25	26-Aug-25
17-Aug-25	23-Aug-25	27-Aug-25	03-Sep-25*
24-Aug-25	30-Aug-25	03-Sep-25	09-Sep-25
31-Aug-25	06-Sep-25	10-Sep-25	16-Sep-25
07-Sep-25	13-Sep-25	17-Sep-25	23-Sep-25
14-Sep-25	20-Sep-25	24-Sep-25	30-Sep-25
21-Sep-25	27-Sep-25	01-Oct-25	07-Oct-25
28-Sep-25	04-Oct-25	08-Oct-25	15-Oct-25*
05-Oct-25	11-Oct-25	15-Oct-25	21-Oct-25
12-Oct-25	18-Oct-25	22-Oct-25	28-Oct-25
19-Oct-25	25-Oct-25	29-Oct-25	04-Nov-25
26-Oct-25	01-Nov-25	05-Nov-25	12-Nov-25*
02-Nov-25	08-Nov-25	12-Nov-25	18-Nov-25
09-Nov-25	15-Nov-25	19-Nov-25	25-Nov-25
16-Nov-25	22-Nov-25	26-Nov-25	03-Dec-25*
23-Nov-25	29-Nov-25	03-Dec-25	09-Dec-25
30-Nov-25	06-Dec-25	10-Dec-25	16-Dec-25
07-Dec-25	13-Dec-25	17-Dec-25	23-Dec-25
14-Dec-25	20-Dec-25	24-Dec-25	31-Dec-25*
21-Dec-25	27-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	07-Jan-26*

*Indicates sweep or push date has been changed to accommodate holiday
Note: Holidays on a Thursday and Friday may delay the availability of the Location Period Accounting Report on the following Monday



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