

ECHO

***Please note this meeting will be at the Dunlap Champions Club; 3rd Floor**

Tuesday, June 25th

Lunch Buffet	11:30 AM
Program Begins	12:00 PM
Introductions	12:10 PM
Presentation Begins	12:15 PM
Q&A	12:50 PM
Meeting Adjourned	1:00 PM

Onsite & Virtual Program

Dunlap Champions Club
225 Champions Way, Bldg B
Tallahassee, FL 32304

To RSVP, please email
mail@economic-club.com
or
Call: (850) 224-0711

PLEASE RSVP BY Noon on Friday, June 21st

Contact Us

Economic Club of Florida, Inc.

325 John Knox Road,
Suite L103

Tallahassee, FL 32303

(850) 224-0711

mail@Economic-Club.com
www.Economic-Club.com

Not for Profit Corporation
Federal ID: 59-1777886

Florida's Booming Economy

Our speaker this month brings the "boom" to the above title of our luncheon program. **Clark Mica** is President of the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME). This trade group, which represents U.S. manufacturers and distributors of commercial explosives, is out with a new economic impact study that highlights the critical role of these explosives in building the U.S. and Florida economies. In Florida, commercial explosives are used in many activities, including mining aggregate in South Florida quarries, drilling and installing oil and gas pipelines, and in the explosive bolts that release the space rockets fired from the Kennedy Space Center.

"I'll be sharing how explosives build America and Florida," Mr. Mica told Club Officers in a recent conference call. "Think about all the construction going on infrastructure-wise in Florida, whether it's building roads, building subdivisions, housing developments, there's a lot of work at that level that's being done. You don't have to dig down too far to hit rock in Florida. So in order to level the area, you have to use commercial explosives," he said.

Like many industries, IME members face challenges in finding an available workforce, supply chain

disruptions, and rising transportation costs, while also addressing environmental impact and safety concerns, which Mr. Mica will also discuss.

Prior to joining IME, Mr. Mica served as Vice President of Government Affairs at The Fertilizer Institute in Washington, D.C, where he directed its policy advocacy efforts to Congress and within federal agencies. He previously served as Presidential Appointee in the George W. Bush Administration at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As its Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Relations (Acting), Mica was the Department's liaison to the White House, federal agencies, Governors, Mayors, and public and private industry organizations. He also served as a Congressional Liaison Officer at HUD, working on a variety of



Clark Mica
President
Institute of Makers of
Explosives

homeownership issues. A native of Winter Park, Florida, Mr. Mica earned his bachelor's degree in political science at Appalachian State University. He will be introduced by Christopher Emmanuel, Director of Government Relations for the University of Florida and Club Vice President.

Thank you to our June Luncheon Sponsor

AUSLEY
MCMULLEN

Recent New Members

Charles H. Wingo, MD

Robert de Cardenas, NTT
[Data America](#)

Marcia Roitberg, MHR
[Communications LLC](#)

Amy Zubaly, FI Municipal
[Electric Association](#)

Trè Warren, First Franklin
[Financial](#)

Chris Hart, Florida Court
[Clerks & Comptrollers](#)

Sara Bremer, Florida
[Court Clerks & Comptrollers](#)

Ashley Guy, Tallulah CBD
[Mushroom THC](#)

Matthew Toplak, Florida
[Division of Emergency Management](#)

You can access membership applications on the club's website at www.economic-club.com.

Encourage a friend to become a member today!

Name Badges



We have newly designed name badges. If you have an old name badge and would like one with the new design, the cost is \$15.

If interested, you can purchase a new name badge at the [Club's website](#) or call the office at 850-224-0711.

The Opportunity Capital in Florida's Rocket Ship Economy

The May Club meeting featured **Saif Ishoof**, Founder and Managing Partner of Lab22c, a Miami business development firm whose clients include a flying boat builder and an artificial intelligence software developer. Mr. Ishoof, an entrepreneur in his own right, shared a glimpse of what Florida could become in the future, based on what's been happening in the last few years in Miami.

"We moved over \$1.5 trillion of assets under management capital to Miami and Florida in the last 48 months," he told the Club. There's a global ranking called the GFCI which stands for Global Financial Center Index. It's a ranking of global financial centers. Miami had never been on the list ever before. This year, we landed on the list for our first time at number 24. Dubai is 21."

Mr. Ishoof said the infusion of capital and technological innovation that's led to that economic growth depends on human capital – something Florida needs to make sure it continually develops along the way to sustain growth.

"We have to develop human capital in our K 12 system," he said. "We have to make sure that we're supporting early learning, we have to be focusing on creating an actual pathway. So, from when a young person graduates from college, they can see their way to a meaningful career. Are you setting up everybody's child for this form of success? Are you enabling and creating those types of ecosystems in those environments?"

Florida has the fourth-largest economy in the United States and if it were its own country, would be the 16th-largest economy in the world. As of fall 2023, the Gross Domestic Product was \$1.6 trillion annually and is growing at a rate of 6.1% annually, leading all other states in economic growth. (You can read more and listen to the Club's podcast with Saif Ishoof on our [Podcasts and Summaries webpage](#).)



Left to right: Marion Hoffmann, Matt Mohler, Saif Ishoof, Katrina Rolle, Andy Gazitua, Alasdair Roe and Glenn Robertson.

Did you know?

Supporting the Economic Club of Florida is not only a great way to provide prominent and distinguished speakers to our community, but it can also provide you with potential tax benefits. As a 501c3 organization, donations made to the Club are tax deductible under IRS standards. While dues may not be eligible for tax deductions, Trustee contributions are eligible. By becoming a Trustee, you can not only help support the club but also enjoy the tax advantages that come with it.

To update your information and join as a Trustee, please contact Lisette Mariner, the Executive Director of the Economic Club of Florida, at mail@economic-club.com or (850) 224-0711.

Federal Tax ID: 59-1777886

TRUSTEES

Thank You to our Trustees who go Above and Beyond

(Past Chairs in Orange)

LES AKERS, Retired

BOBBY BACON, President, Earl Bacon Agency

STAN BARNES, CFP, CLU, Managing Director, Barnes Capital Group

DAVID A. BENNETT, Financial Officer, VR Systems, Inc.

LO BIELBY, ESQ., Principal Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLC

BARNEY T. BISHOP, III, President & CEO, Barney Bishop Consulting

DR. WAYNE BLANTON, Florida School Board Insurance Trust

W. KEN BOUTWELL, Managing Partner, Vineyard Capital Partners

JOHN BRADLEY, Senior Investment Advisor, Florida State Board of Administration

RAYMOND E. BYE, Ph.D., Retired Executive & Consultant, FSU

DOMINIC M. CALABRO, President & CEO, Florida TaxWatch, Inc.

MARSHALL CASSEDY, JR., Owner & Financial Consultant, Cassedy & Company, Inc.

DOUG CROLEY, Doug Croley Insurance Services

JOEL DAVIS, Friends of Paula

GREG A. DELOACH, EVP, J. Smith Lanier & Co

HOWARD EISENMAN, Financial Advisor, Enhanced Financial Services, LLC

CHRISTOPHER EMMANUEL, Director of Government Relations, University of Florida

MICHAEL EURICH, Big Bend Hospice

STEVE EVANS, Retired

BRETT EWING, First Franklin Financial Services

SHAWN TA FRIDAY-STROUD, PhD, FAMU School of Business

JEANNIE GARNER, Executive Director, Florida League of Cities

BILL GRAHAM, Retired

HON. MAJOR B. HARDING, former Florida Supreme Court Justice

JOHN J. HARRIS, Government Consultant, Gray Robinson, P.A.

DAVID F. HARVEY, President & CEO, David F. Harvey & Associates

ROB HENDERSON, Of Counsel, Meenan P.A.

MARION HOFFMANN, Indelible Business Solutions

PATRICK E. HOY, AIA, Principal, Hoy + Stark Architects

STEPHEN C. HUGGINS, Sr. VP/Investments, Stifel-Huggins Winders

DARIA IBACH, Vice President, Capital City Bank

CHRIS JENSEN, JR., EVP and Senior Lender, Prime Meridian Bank

DR. LARRY C. KUBIAK, Director Psychological Services, Tallahassee Memorial Behavioral Health Center

MS. SAM LESTER, Retired Attorney

DORRECE LIENBY, Broker/Owner, Lienby Realty, Inc.

STEVE MCCLELLAND, AAMS, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones

JIM MESSER, Attorney, Fonvielle Lewis Messer & McConaughay

DAVID MICA, CAE, DPL, Founder, Mica, Mica and Mica LLC

ALEX MILTON, Commercial Banking Manager, Ameris Bank

MATT MOHLER, Special Projects Manager External Affairs, Florida Power & Light Company

BILL MOOR, President, Capital City Investments & Trust Company

KAREN MOORE, Founder & CEO, Moore Communications Group

JIM MURDAUGH, President, Tallahassee Community College

ALAN NULL, President, Rally Point Financial Group

CINDY O'CONNELL, Director, Florida Prepaid College Foundation

JERRY D. PARRISH, PH.D., Chief Economist, Florida State University

KENNETH PRATT, Senior Vice President Government Affairs, Florida Bankers Association

MARY LOU RAJCHEL, Retired Attorney; Trade Association President & CEO for FPC and FTA

DR. DENNIS RIDLEY, PH.D., Research Professor, FAMU; Faculty Associate, FSU

GLENN W. ROBERTSON, President, Glenn Robertson & Associates

KATRINA ROLLE, President & CEO, Community Foundation of North FL

CLAUDIA L. SACHS, CFP, CTP, Wealth Advisor, Securities America.

MICHAEL SHERIDAN, Chairman, FBMC Benefits Management

DEE ANN SMITH

TODD SPERRY, VP, Oliver Sperry Renovation & Construction, Inc.

JUSTIN THAMES, Director State Government Relations, TECO Energy

JIM THIELEN, CPA, Thielen + Tax and Business Consulting

JOHN THOMAS, Director & CEO, Brandt Information Services

IDA THOMPSON, Director of Advancement, Holy Comforter Episcopal

HON. MARJORIE TURNBULL

KENZA VAN ASSENDERP, van Assenderp Law

KEVIN VAUGHN, President, Rogers, Gunter, Vaughn Insurance Agency

VIRGINIA VAUGHN, CIO, North Florida Agents Network, Inc.

BEN WATKINS, Director, Florida Division of Bond Finance

MARK WEBB, CFP, Merrill Lynch

ASH WILLIAMS, Vice Chair, J.P. Morgan Asset Management

MICHAEL WILSON, VP/Private & Commercial Banking, The First Bank

TRUSTEES

Upcoming Programs

Onsite/Virtual Programs

July 23, 2024



Michael Heekin

Founding COO & Board Member

WebMD

FSU Alumni

August 6, 2024



Lee White
President

LM White Consulting
(Autonomous Trucking Expert)

FSU Alumni

September 24, 2024



Jessica Harvey
CEO

Guy Harvey Foundation
Dunlap Champions Club

Member Spotlight

Michael Wilson is Vice President of Private and Commercial Banking at The First Bank, celebrating his 37th year in the banking and financial services industry. He had previously been in the same role with Sunshine Community Bank, which was acquired by The First in 2018, along with Farmers & Merchants Bank in 2019. His prior experience includes executive roles at Fifth Third Bank and Regions Bank, noting that community banking "is closer to the customer."



Mr. Wilson is a Club Trustee, a group whose extra financial commitment helps the Club fulfill its mission.

"The Club is probably the best networking group that I've been affiliated with during my career. The caliber of the members and speakers is just a wealth of information and knowledge and it puts you in the same circle with many business leaders in the community."

He was born in Bonifay, Florida but moved around the country with his military family, including El Paso, Texas, before returning to Florida in 1986 to attend Edison State Community College. Mr. Wilson and his wife Rhonda have two sons, Shawn and Chandler, and are members of Celebration Baptist Church. His community service includes the Boy Scouts of America where he served as Treasurer for Troop 23 for five years. He has been a member of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce and served as Treasurer for its Leads Group 1. When not in the office, he enjoys outdoor pursuits, including fishing, boating, camping, and hunting.

2024 Economic Club Board of Directors

Officers Executive Committee

Chairman
Marion Hoffmann

President
Katrina Rolle

Vice President
Christopher Emmanuel

Treasurer
Kenneth Pratt

Secretary
Douglas "Doug" Wheeler

Immediate Past Chair
Lorence "Lo" Bielby

Non Officer Directors

Barney Bishop III

John Bradley

Ray Bye

Dominic Calabro

Christopher Campbell

Hon. Major Harding

Alia Faraj-Johnson

David Mica, Sr.

William "Bill" Moor

Karen Moore

Jim Murdaugh

Non Officer Directors continued

Cindy O'Connell

Jerry Parrish

Glenn Robertson

Michael Sheridan

Hon. Marjorie Turnbull

Ben Watkins

Ash Williams