

DRUGS DON'T WORK

Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce members had the opportunity to learn about the **Drugs Don't Work** program in May when **Chuck Wade**, *President and CEO of the Council on Alcohol and Drugs* and the *State Director of Drugs Don't Work* in Georgia, made a presentation at the Chamber.

The Drugs Don't Work program is the statewide drug-free workplace program established by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and is supported by local Chambers throughout the state, the Georgia Department of Human Resources, the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases and the Georgia State Board of Workers Compensation. *Organizations that become certified drug-free workplaces through the Drugs Don't Work program receive a 7.5 percent discount on worker's compensation premiums.*

"Some people believe that if they can't see the problem, it doesn't exist," Wade told the seminar attendees. However, according to Wade, 77 percent of illegal drug users in America are employed.

"If every workplace in Georgia was a drug-free workplace, we'd cut drug use in this state by 77 percent," Wade said.

Wade also noted that many drug dealers target the workplace for sales, because they have easy access to customers (their co-workers); they can give a line of credit to their customers, since they know when they will be paid; there is insulation from law enforcement at the workplace and less chance of a traffic stop resulting in arrest for drugs and drug-related items; and because it is safer than dealing drugs "on the streets."


Indeed, according to literature provided by Drugs Don't Work, nearly one-third of employees know of the sale of drugs in their workplace.

Approximately 90 percent of large businesses have drug-free workplace programs in place, while 5-10 percent of small and medium sized businesses have implemented similar programs. Ironically, 75 percent of employed Americans work for these small and medium sized businesses. Workers who want to avoid substance abuse policies at the large companies take their job search to the smaller businesses.

Substance abuse costs are high. Nearly half of all worker's compensation claims are related to substance abuse in the workplace and substance abusers file three-to-five times as many worker's compensation claims. Medical costs and absenteeism among substance abusers are through the roof, and lost productivity and high employee turnover can cripple a business.

However, companies are finding that investment in education, prevention and assistance programs pays dividends for both employer and employee.

Taking part in the Drugs Don't Work program is not difficult, it's not expensive and you don't have to do it alone.

Contact **Alison Smith** (*LR, '04*) at asmith@romega.com or 706.291.7663 for more information on the program. 



Chuck Wade of the Council on Alcohol and Drugs spoke to Chamber members about the Drugs Don't Work program, which can save employers 7.5 percent in worker's compensation premiums.

Please Join Us For ...

Membership Orientation

When: **Tuesday, June 26th, 2:00 p.m.**

Where: **Chamber of Commerce
1 Riverside Parkway**

Reservations are requested by
Friday, June 23rd

Member Reservation Options:

Online at www.romega.com
Email – asmith@romega.com
Call – 706.291.7663

Learn how to get involved and all about what your membership with the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce can do for your business.