

GACAA Board of Directors
Minutes
July 19, 2016

Present – Phillip Roberts, Jennifer Miller, Keith Fielder, Steve Morgan, Ray Hicks, Brian Cresswell, Tim Daley, Tripp Williams, Tim Coolong, Brock Ward, Amanda Smith, Brook Jeffries, Andrew Sawyer and Paula Burke. Guest Wes Smith and Greg Price.

Called to Order at 8:32 am

Invocation by Phillip Roberts

Secretary's Report – Paula Burke

Approved the minutes February 22, 2016 Board Meeting. Motion made by Steve Morgan, second by Ray Hicks. Minutes approved. Paula had a clarification on 3 state committees – Extension Programs, Historical Memorials, Retirement/Extension Needs - that have no chairs assigned to them. She will check on the three people mentioned - Tucker Price, Mickey Cummings, Jay Michael Moore.

Administration Report – Greg Price

The tentative/proposed spring ANR meeting will be held on March 9 and 10, 2017 in Perry. Preparing for the Federal Labor Standards Act that will start on December 1. Program Assistants and Associates will be back on time cards. UGA is applying for an educational exemption. Greg feels positive for County Agent positions to be exempt from this new change. County websites are now finished. UGA is working on department websites. The next UGA budget will most likely ask for infrastructure not agent positions. Recruiting 15 County Agents this year. Looking for ways to increase applicants as they don't always get a good pool for all positions. They have solicited UGA search firm and adding new ways of advertising the positions. Phillip asked about retention of young agents. Greg said they conduct exit interviews and looking at that information of why they are leaving. Discussed he realized there was some feelings that GACAA was not an equal partner in the planning of the ACCG Farmhouse booth. Shared 3 layout plans to discuss for ACCG Farmhouse booth for next year. Paula asked who the committee was for ACCG. Greg said GACAA is the committee with the help of Angela Rowell and Josh Paine from the office of communications. It was decided we would discuss and make a decision and recommendation to Greg by the November 7 board meeting. See attachment of layout options.

Treasurer's Report – Keith Fielder

Sponsor list was shared for upcoming state meeting. Checking is \$8,673.67. Discussed the need for more counties to contribute to the State Specialist award. Steve asked if he needed to send an email reminder with an invoice to counties about contributing. New Agents may not be aware their county needs to contribute. We will ask the Jr and Sr Directors to contact their counties about donating. Phillip suggested when presenting the award this year to give a little history about the award and how its funded. Wes asked about scholarship funds from an account at the University. We can use the interest from these funds to pay for the scholarships. Keith wasn't aware we could move these funds to pay for scholarships. He will look in to that for this year.

Ray asked about funds for NACAA hospitality and transportation to states night out dinner. Motion to approved Treasurers report and receive and file for audit by Ray Hicks, second by Brian Cresswell. Motion approved.

Vice-President's Report – Steve Morgan

Steve will be sending the Sunbelt Expo information soon. He also has sent out the information on outstanding CEC award.

President Elect's Report – Brian Cresswell

Need to run a new line to the expo booth. Setting up meeting to finalize the annual meeting. He is working on finalizing tours as well. He is working on getting checks from some more sponsors. Please let him know if you have any sponsor contacts. Golf has been planned. May not have any place for the shotgun shoot. Paula said she is ready to help Brian out with registration for the meeting.

President's Report – Phillip Roberts

Discussed states night at in Arkansas at the Cajun Wharf for 30 people and will check on transportation.

National Report – Wes Smith

NACAA has had discussion to make it more favorable for states to host the National meetings. NACAA may take over Sunday night meal, tour morning breakfast, and increasing funds to 4-H talent review. If approved, we will see an increase in registration of around \$60. Have about 1,000 registered for Little Rock. Wes will have hospitality in Little Rock. Will share a room with Tennessee to save money. He thanked everyone for their support.

Past President Report – Ray Hicks

Ray is working on the handbook. Will have it for November board meeting. We need to get the grill at the Expo booth reworked and will be ready for October. Shared the idea of having a Georgia County Agent Hall of Fame award at Connor Hall. Phillip appointed Ray as chair of the committee.

District Reports

Northeast – Tripp Williams

Tripp asked about how to pay for the specialist award through our checking accounts. Paula suggested a letter as an invoice from Steve Morgan to pay for the award. We have 5 openings in the Northeast district: McDuffie, Monroo, Rabun, Richmond and Wilkes. Monroe, Richmond and Wilkes counties were listed on ipaws. All three counties had a retired/rehired ANR agents supporting the ANR program. Richmond County has closed and interviews have been completed. Monroe and Wilkes have closed and interviews will be set up after NACAA. McDuffie County has not been listed and the role of the new agent will carry ANR and 4-H responsibilities.

Northwest – Tim Daley

Fulton County has two open positions. Will make some contact for sponsorship for state meeting.

Southeast – Jennifer Miller

Southeast has had a lot of turnover. We have four Ag agent positions open: McIntosh, Effingham, Montgomery and Bryan. We just filled Evans County – Savannah Tanner, Chatham-Tim Davis, and Burke second county funded agent- Katie Burch. As Greg mentioned earlier any help with recruitment is appreciated. Jennifer Miller has transferred from Montgomery County to Jeff Davis to fill position vacated by Tim Varnedore's move to Southwest DED. The Junior and Senior Director will work on pulling the new agents into GACAA.

Southwest – Brock Ward

Two new hires – Seth McAllister in Terrell County and Michasia Harris Dowdy in Lowndes County. We have had one agent Ty Torrence transfer to Decatur County. We also have some departures – Chase Hembree (Seminole County), Andy Shirley (Mitchell County), Mark Bailey (Macon County), and Justin Lanier (Crisp County).

State Staff – Amanda Smith

Details from State Staff report for the July GACAA Board meeting minutes follow: Interviews for the East Georgia Extension Agronomist will occur in the next few weeks (end of July and early August). Adam Rabinowitz - New Extension Peanut and Grains Economist will start August 23 and be based in Tifton. Levi Russell - New Extension Livestock Economist will start August 5 and be based in Athens. Nelissa Jamora - New Extension Cotton Economist's start date is still pending upon international paper work from her home country.

GOTCAA Report – No Report

Old Business – none

New Business

Friend of County Agent – Zippy Duvall and Beverly Sparks nominated. We don't usually give this award to people still "in positions". Motion by Ray Hicks for Beverly Sparks to receive the award, second by Brian Cresswell. Motion approved.

Junior Specialist Award – Jacob Segers was nominated. Motion by Keith Fielder for Jacob Segers to receive the award, second by Brock Ward. Motion approved.

Senior Specialist Award – Dennis Hancock and Alfredo Martinez were nominated. A verbal/chat room vote was held and Dennis was voted to receive the award. Need to check his membership status.

ACCG Meeting – discussed the ACCG layout. Layout #1 maybe the best compromise.

4-H Congress – need someone to attend. Ray had a person to attend.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:03 am.

Next Meetings:

September 16, 2016: Video Conference

November 7, 2016: Cordele GA (AM/PIC)