

GACAA Board Meeting Minutes

via Zoom

June 1, 2021

Present – Gary Hawkins (President), Justin Shealy (President Elect), Brenda Jackson (Vice President), Carole Knight (Secretary), Ty Torrance (Treasurer), Aubrey Shirley (SE), Savannah Tanner (SE), Campbell Vaughn (NE), Charlotte Meeks (SW), James Morgan (SW), Paula Burke (NW), Melissa Murphy (NW), Laurel Dunn (SS), Wes Smith (GOTCAA), Mark McCann (Admin)

Absent – Wade Parker (Past President)

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order 9:12am by Gary Hawkins.

Gary gave the invocation.

Administrative Report from Dr Mark McCann – Governor signed the budget, which got us back to even with other agencies with budget reductions. Beef position at Tifton has been offered. Blueberry position has also been offered. Vegetable position is being re-advertised. Looking at priorities to refill county positions. New Food Science Department head named – Dr. Singh. Interviewing for Crop and Soil Science Department Head position. Announcing the step down for Ag Economics Department Head position, so search will begin. Sadie Brown, Finance Director for CAES, has transferred to Business School. New Communications Director had begun. Dean Place is making more trips out in the state, visiting county offices. COVID status has changed and regulations have lifted.

Dr. McCann inquired about GACAA AMPIC. Meeting will be a one-night meeting vs the traditional 2. He mentioned an idea of him and the PDC's organizing tours for younger agents. McCann sponsoring tours for those agents prior to the meeting, encouraging those agents to attend the meeting.

Secretary Report by Carole Knight – Presented and reviewed the minutes from the March 1 board meeting. Revisions will be made and sent out for an email approval.

Treasurer Report by Ty Torrance – Taxes have been filed. Used different accountant since moving to Tifton. Look at shopping that out next year to look for more economical options.

President Report by Gary Hawkins – In the process of submitting trainings for next year, let specialists know so that they can meet those needs. NACAA AMPIC is coming up next month. During Regional meeting Paula Burke (Southern Region Vice Chair) and Keith Mickler (Nat'l VP) will be presented. Voted on during the Voting Delegate meeting.

President Elect Report by Justin Shealy – Plans are underway for the AMPIC in Tifton. Meeting with RDC again soon to confirm meeting room needs. Working with securing sponsorships/donors. Looking at securing sponsors for the meals and breaks. Plan to have conference center rooms and agenda secured by August meeting. Gary suggests getting with Clark MaCallister about number of posters expected.

Vice President Report by Brenda Jackson – Contracts, fee and permits secured for Sunbelt Expo 2021. Moultrie hotel is already full, but got 3 rooms in Adel. We are on the verge of making the switch to the

new website. In the process of reviewing the final design, hoping to transition from old to new website at end of month. Still have all the capabilities that old site had.

Justin asked about what past registration fees for AMPIC were. 2019's meeting full registration was \$135, with other options for partial registration. Carole suggested only keeping the one flat registration fee. Had a discussion about when and if to cut off registration, not offering on-site registration, and having ticketed meals.

Past President Report - None

District Reports:

Northwest District Report by Paula Burke – New hire in Troup County – Deborah Xavier Mist. Some vacancies in district. Starting to do some face-to-face updates. Excited about NW candidate, Keith Mickler who is running for NACAA Vice President.

Northeast District Report by Carole Knight/Campbell Vaughn – There are some new faces in the district. Had an in-person training in May and got to see those faces. Sarah Cranston in McDuffie County, John Scruggs in Jasper County. Lots of open counties still left to fill.

Southwest District Report by Charlotte Meeks – Planting and doing programs. Brian Creswell retired from Early County. Have gaps that need to be filled. Seminole County has new agent Cody Boling.

Southeast District Report submitted by Savannah Tanner – SE DPA is happening so unable to attend.

State Staff Report by Laurel Dunn – Looking to fill Andre de Silva's position.

GOTCAA report by Wes Smith – Has submitted the death list to NACAA, it is also used for our GACAA meeting. Holding funds for State Young Professionals to attend in-person NACAA AMPIC.

Brenda asked about sponsorship for the CEC Award, but it is sponsored by the Retired Extension Association.

Old Business:

Membership – Membership is at 154. (this keeps us at 3 DSA).

ACCG / Farm Bureau – Farm Bureau is December 4-5. ACCG is in Nov 12-13, 2021 and April 2022. What does our participation and menu look like for a fall/winter meeting? Look at only including members that are closer to Savannah. Motion made to attend Nov ACCG meeting and April ACCG meeting made by Justin Shealy. Seconded by Carole Knight. Motion passes unanimously. Gary is going to get with Zach and Jeff Christie to iron out needed details. Farm House trailer changes hands at Nov ACCG and transitions to Justin and his PR Chair Brian Hayes.

New Business:

GACAA Scholarships – Charlotte Meeks, Scholarship Chair, discussed unused Professional Scholarships. Those monies have been deferred because of cancellation of events. Shanna Reynolds received a First Timer Scholarship which has been deferred until 2022. She suggested deferring scholarships for attendance at an in-person event, but that if they did not attend that offering they surrender funds.

Brenda Jackson makes motion to defer scholarships until in-person event but then forfeited if they don't attend. Seconded by Justin Shealy. Motion passes unanimously.

Assisting FL National Meeting – The Florida Association has contact us wanting sponsorships for the NACAA in 2022. Carole went back through past minutes and looked up what our sponsorship contributions looked like. Oklahoma \$3500, Arkansas \$2500, Alabama ?, Tennessee \$4500. We have added to our budget a line item of \$5000 to help support southern states that host NACAA AMPIC's. The 2002 records of when we hosted the AMPIC have been expunged and destroyed, but we feel certain that other southern state did support our meeting. Carole Knight made the motion that we support Florida's efforts and support them in donating \$5000 towards the Florida NACAA AMPIC. (Justin supports this effort as long as they give us 5 cases of Strawberry Lemonade from Sunbelt Ag Expo.) Paula Burke seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Assisting GEAFCS for State Congress – GEAFCS hosts a hospitality suite at the 4-H State Congress. We have traditionally donated \$400 to this. Ty Torrance makes a motion that we donate \$400 towards the suite. Brenda Jackson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Next board meeting is August 2, 2021 at 9:00am via Zoom.

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 10:39am.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Knight, GACAA Secretary