

GACAA Board Meeting Minutes

via Zoom

August 2, 2021

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

Guests: Zack Williams (PR Chair/Farmhouse), Brian Hayes (Upcoming PR Chair), Rich Braman (website)

Absent: Laurel Dunn (SS)

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order 9:15am by Gary Hawkins.

Gary made amendments to agenda: New Business – Nominations for Friend of County Agent and Specialist of Year, NACAA Southern Region Update from Paula Burke
Motion and second made. Motion passes unanimously.

Wade gave the invocation.

Administrative Report – None one present.

Secretary Report by Carole Knight – Presented and reviewed the minutes from the June 1 board meeting. Ty Torrance made the motion to accept. Brenda Jackson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report by Ty Torrance – Ty provided treasurers report (emailed out prior to meeting). Discussed finances for Sunbelt Ag Expo. We need an ipad to run Square off of for food booth. Paula made the motion to accept the report as filed for audit. Justin Shealey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

President Report by Gary Hawkins – Still gathering ideas for webinars. NACAA AMPIC happened virtually. Congratulations to all the award winners. Congratulations to Paula Burke for being elected as NACAA Southern Region Jr Director. Also, to Keith Mickler for being elected as NACAA Vice President.

President Elect Report by Justin Shealy – Annual meeting plans are moving along to be held at the RDC in Tifton. Have mailed out more sponsorship and donor letters so Ty should be receiving money soon. Have cleaned up grill and cooker for Sunbelt and they are ready to go. Carole asked about when to open up registration for GACAA AMPIC. Suggested to open it up mid-September if possible. Conference Center needs meal numbers by first week of November. Carole, Justin and Brenda need to get together to design forms and collect information needed.

Vice President Report by Brenda Jackson – Meat order went out to Justin and Michasia last week. There are about 10 folks signed up to work but need more. There are 3 rooms reserved at the Days Inn

in Adel. Have sent out the first call for the Mass Media Awards. Later in the agenda will discuss Friend of the County Agent and Specialists Awards. Ty asked about cash for Sunbelt Food Booth.

Past President Report by Wade Parker – Working with Gary and Zack on ACCG Farmhouse.

NACAA Southern Region Report by Paul Burke – Has attended first board meeting. Reminded Chair and Vice Chairs of NACAA Committees to submit conference reimbursements. Paula will be representing southern region at GACAA AMPIC unless someone else can attend. She will keep Justin posted. There has been discussion about Montana hosting NACAA AMPIC in the future.

District Reports:

Northwest District Report by Paula Burke – Yanni Chen (DeKalb) and Halley Hariman? (Cobb) are both leaving. District has been hosting monthly ANR Hour webinars. Sheldon Hammond is retiring Nov 30. Melissa Murphy and the Early Career Development Committee is hosting a webinar for those attending their first GACAA AMPIC on August 25th.

Northeast District Report by Campbell Vaughn – Getting ready for GMGA Conference. John Scruggs left Jasper County. Monte Stephens transferred from Oconee to Greene County.

Southwest District Report by Charlotte Meeks – No new hires or vacancies. Brian Cresswell is hired back as part-time in Early County. Georgia National Fair is coming up. CAES is having a booth there.

Southeast District Report submitted by Aubrey Shirley – Southeast should be moved to first in the order of districts. Katie Burch left Jenkins County. Lots of agent positions being advertised. Midville Field is August 11th, everyone is invited to attend.

State Staff Report - None

GOTCAA report by Wes Smith – Brenda has been looking for Presidents Notebook that Wes and Ray Hicks created. It is missing.

Old Business:

Membership – Membership drive for 2022 will open

ACCG / Farm Bureau – Zack discussed ACCG. He got ahold of Jeff Christie. He says that ACCG should look like normal. The convention center Lindsey Wolf, she estimates 500 in attendance. Gary emailed out a spreadsheet about who had provided what. Talked with Justin about menu as some of our food items are seasonal. Menu was discussed. We went through the spreadsheet and who was the contact for those commodities. Why is there not a PR notebook, similar to the Sunbelt Expo notebook, with records of what, who, why, where and how much? To help whomever is in charge. Wade is going to help Zack with nailing down the details.

Could we use One Drive or another file sharing option to preserve records on to be able to pass down information?

New Business:

Website – Center for Urban Ag hosts our website on their server. Still have email capabilities through listserv (Georgia Business Network). Have the opportunity with the new website with form capabilities

to get rid of Wufoo. Has a lot of the same functions. Carole, Brenda, Rich and Ty will work together to make that transition happen.

Friend of Count Agent/Specialist of Year - The nominees for Senior Specialists of the Year were presented. As well as the Friend of the County Agent. There were no nominees for Junior Specialist. Nominees were discussed. We discussed the possibility of giving out 2 Friend of the County Agent Awards since we didn't recognize anyone last year. No motion was made to do that. Brenda will send out a Qualtrics for board members to vote. Nominees included: Sr Specialist – Bodie Pennisi and Sheri Dorn; Friend of the County Agent – Johnny Whiddon and Van Murphy.

Results of the vote:

Sr. Specialist award: Bodi Pennisi

Friend of the County Agent: Johnny Whiddon

ESP National Sponsorship – ESP asked us for \$2,500 in sponsorship to support their National Meeting in Savannah. Carole can look in past minutes to see how GACAA has supported sister organization meetings. Discussion was had on the amount and the fact that we do not have that budgeted as well as the timeliness of the request. Carole made a motion to not support the National ESP meeting. Brenda seconded. Discussion was had. Carole rescinded the motion. We will look for records of what we have donated to other national meetings in the past. Gary will visit with the presidents of FACS and 4H to see if they are going to donate. We will do an email vote on contributing.

Update: A zoom meeting was held and we voted to contribute the \$2,500 to the National ESP Meeting.

Next board meeting is November 16, 2021 in Tifton, GA.

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 10:39am.

Respectfully submitted by Carole Knight, GACAA Secretary