**GACAA Board Meeting Minutes**

Tifton, GA

November 16, 2021

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

Guests: Scott Carlson (Membership Chair)

Absent: Aubrey Shirley (SE), Laurel Dunn (SS)

**Proceedings:**

Meeting called to order 10:15 am by Gary Hawkins.

Gary made amendments to agenda: New Business – Appointment of Membership Chair and the Farmhouse Trailer improvements.

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 August 2 board meeting. Ty Torrance made the motion to accept. Justin Shealey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Brenda asked that approved minutes be sent to her after board meeting so that they can be posted to website.

**Treasurer Report by Ty Torrance** – Ty provided treasurers report (emailed out prior to meeting). He reviewed the current financial status. The fact that Brian Creswell is still the only person on the Blakely Bank CD was discussed. We need to get Ty or someone else listed on that CD. The traditional budget meeting should be brought back perhaps at the January board meeting. Carole Knight made the motion to accept the report as filed for audit. Brenda Jackson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**President Report by Gary Hawkins** – Gary expressed his appreciation for the support as President. He has enjoyed working with everyone. And looks forward to the transition into Past-President. Gary was thanked for his leadership through an interesting year.

**President Elect Report by Justin Shealy** – No turning back on AMPIC. It should be a great meeting.

**Vice President Report by Brenda Jackson** – Sunbelt Ag Expo is sitting on a profit of $7500 but we still have not received a final bill from Hopkins. Looking at procuring an additional square, so that each window has one would be beneficial. Next year’s Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference will be in Dalton, GA at the Dalton Trade and Convention Center on November 14-16, 2022. Monday will have pre-conference tours and activities and Monday night social. Board meeting will be Tuesday Nov 15. Gary reminded that the incoming VP needs to have meeting dates set early to get on Extension Calendar – recommended by August of previous year.

We discussed meeting registration. Additional options, like banquet only or spouses need to be added back in. We also need to look at adding County/Department rather than just County. Also need to look at sending an automated receipt for registration.

A reminder was made about Districts requesting their funds from GACAA Treasurer. That needs to be done by March 15.

**Past President Report** **by Wade Parker** – Wade worked on the November ACCG meeting. He recruited as many SE District agents to help defray costs. This is Wade’s last board meeting and concludes his service to GACAA.

**District Reports:**

**Northwest District Report by Paula Burke –** NW District Conference just occurred and retirement party for NW District Director Sheldon Hammond. They have interviewed 2 candidates for the position. There will be a GACAA retirement party for him at the ANR Update. Brandon Crumsey, Clayton, left.

**Northeast District Report by Raymond Fitzpatrick –** Bobby Smith, NE DED, announced his plans to retire in June 2022. No positions have been filled but there are offers made. We will be nominating Lucy Ray for the Vice President position.

**Southwest District Report by** **James Morgan** – Charlotte Meeks left so James Morgan in now the Sr Director. They also had their District Conference last week. Cody Bowling joined SW District.

**Southeast District Report submitted by Savannah Tanner –** No new hires or folks leaving. There have been some offers made for open positions. New ANR educator in Chatham County.

**State Staff Report -** None

A discussion was had about State Staff coming off the President rotation and not being a separate District. Perhaps State Staff could join and participate in the District that they are housed in. There seems to be a lack of participation from State Staff. This would be a by-law change. We would like the Districts and State Staff to discuss and see how everyone feels about it. No change could happen until AMPIC 2022 if the by-laws need changing.

Carole passed out the District Reports that need to returned after to her after their meetings.

**GOTCAA report by Wes Smith** –There will be a good GOTCAA representation tonight at the banquet.

**Old Business:**

**Membership** – Membership drive for 2022 is open. There are currently 99 members who have renewed which is ahead of where we normally are. Membership will close Feb 1. District Directors need to encourage their districts to join/renew.

**ACCG** – ACCG went well. Commissioners seemed appreciative. The question was raised about “How many commissioners vs how many vendors/exhibitors are we feeding?” At what point has ACCG out-lived its usefulness. In the past, it was traditionally the Ag Agent who was the CEC, now it is very mixed and not like that. Why is GACAA footing the bill and work to provide this? It has definitely changed since UGA Extension administration tacked in on us. Does GAE4HA and GAFACS need to be involved? Travel allocation has always been unfair. Is this financially feasible or meet our goals as an organization? We need to have a conversation with UGA Extension about us not participating or altering all participation. Does JCEP take the reins? Suggested that GACAA Executive Board approach Mike Martin and start discussion. If we pull out of ACCG, what will be the impact in the counties?

Need to discuss at January board meeting to get information prepared to meet with administration.

What other options do we have to utilize Farmhouse? A day in Atlanta?

**Farm Bureau** – At Jekyll Island on December 6-7, 2021. Attending is Executive Board, Junior Directors, AA and DSA award winners.

**New Business:**

**Scholarship Committee Proposal** – Table this. Martin Wunderly’s scholarship committee questions /suggestions need to be addressed at the next board meeting.

**Farmhouse Trailer** – Trailer needs some work on lights and tires. Carole Knight made a motion to approve whatever work needs to done on trailer. Wade Parker seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Appointment of Membership Chair** – Scott Carlson is stepping down as Membership Chair. Gary, as President, can appoint a new chair. Ashley Best has been recommended and she is enthusiastic about the position. Jule-Lynne Macie, NW ANR PDC, approved. No objections to her appointment.

Meeting was adjourned.

***Respectfully submitted by Carole Knight, GACAA Secretary***