**GACAA Board Meeting Minutes**

via Zoom

November 10, 2020

**Board Members Present** – Wade Parker (President), Keith Fielder (Past President), Gary Hawkins (President Elect), Justin Shealy (Vice President), Carole Knight (Secretary), Ty Torrance (Treasurer), Aubrey Shirley (SE), Tony Barnes (SE), Raymond Fitzpatrick (NE), Nathan Eason (NE), Charlotte Meeks (SW), Steve Morgan (NW), Andre de Silva (SS)

**Others Present** – Scott Carlson (Membership), Wes Smith (GOTCAA)

**Proceedings:**

Meeting called to order 10:00am by Wade Parker.

Keith Fielder gave the invocation.

**Secretary Report by Carole Knight** – Minutes from July 30, 2020 board meeting were reviewed and discussed. A few small clerical edits were made. Motion to approve made by Justin Shealy. Second by Steve Morgan. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer Report by Ty Torrance** – Treasurer reports were emailed out to leadership. Two reports were presented for discussion – a Jan to Nov of 2020 and a Nov 2019-Nov 2020. SW District has merged their district funds into the main GACAA account. He presented the most recent reconciliation which matched accounts. Totals for funds are Checking Acct - $35,438.93, 2 CD’s at Farm Bureau Bank - $21,083.97, $63,520.26, 4-H Foundation $76,628.42, CD at First State Bank in Blakely - $70,815.89 for a total in assets of $267,487.47. Discussed DSA/AA funds for travel to NACAA AM/PIC. There is travel money budgeted for DSA/AA/Voting Delegates, presenters, and executive officers to go to NACAA AM/PIC. This is above what is budgeted from the college. How district funds are handled were discussed.

**Report from Dr. Mark McCann** – Provided CAES update. A set amount of travel dollars are designated to each association for events. It is GACAA’s decision on how to utilize.

**President Report by Wade Parker** – This is the last board meeting that Wade presides over as President. Keith Fielder praised Wade for taking on the unexpired term of Brent Allen and thanked him for accepting the role. At the last business meeting, the decision was made to not give new members their first-year dues for free. He expected to get some kick back from that, but has been pleasantly surprised that the comments have been accepting and understanding about the decision. He is looking forward to the annual meeting on the next day. It is the first time GACAA’s meeting has been held virtually. A challenge moving forward in our organization is going to be fundraising.

**President Elect Report by Gary Hawkins** – Virtual annual meeting is tomorrow. All districts have met already accept SW, which in meeting later in the day. There is a list of committee meeting zoom locations are on the agenda that was emailed out yesterday. District directors, please remind your agents about where to find and attend. Pending any technological issues, he feels confident that the meeting should go well. Zoom room will be open at 8:30 am and the meeting will start at 9am. Gary, Ty, and Carole will work on a spreadsheet to pass on indicating what committees handle what awards, what prize and money do they receive, and who is responsible for ordering/paying that.

**Vice President Report by Justin Shealy** – Tentative dates for 2021 GACAA AM/PIC Nov 8-10 in Tifton. Discussion about using Helms-Briscoe when securing hotels and conference center contracts. Concerns expressed about what travel restrictions will look like come November 2021.

**Past President Report by Keith Fielder** – Keith appreciates the opportunity to represent and serve the association. In total, he has served on the board for ten years. He has enjoyed it and it is a rewarding experience. He would be glad to volunteer to help out with anything after he comes off the board.

**Northwest District Report by Steve Morgan –** District meeting today at 3pm. There are 3 candidates running for junior director. We will also appoint a senior director so that they will have full representation on the board. No departures or additions since last board meeting.

**Northeast District Report by Nathan Eason** – District meeting has been held and new junior director selected.

**Southwest District Report by Charlotte Meeks** – SW PDC interviews are scheduled for next week. Stephanie Hollifield, Dr Malcolm Rainey are being interviewed. James Morgan was elected as junior director. Charlotte will move up to senior director. Ty Torrance is moving to be the Area Vegetable Agent. Matt Murdock departed from Marion/Schley. Cliff Bowdon passed away – he was in Stewart County. Ty is going to check and see if GACAA sent a memorial for Cliff. If not, Ty is going to send that on behalf of GACAA. It was agreed to send $50 to the appropriate honorarium.

**Southeast District Report by Tony Barnes** – John Mclemore from Coffee County left. Savannah Tanner will be junior director. Aubrey Shirley is moving up to senior director. Derrick Bowen in Tattnall. Blake Carter moved from Liberty to Effingham.

**State Staff Report by Andre de Silva** – Laurel Dunn is considering being the junior director. Andre will reach out and discuss with her.

**GOTCAA Report by Wes Smith** – A letter has been sent to all GOTCAA members. Money was gathered for a lobbyist and they have located where that money has been put. He encouraged GOTCAA members from each district to get together for a dutch treat lunch if they wanted.

**New Business –** The DSA/AA award winners that did not get the opportunity to attend the NACAA AM/PIC because of it transitioning to virtual were discussed. Some winners approached Wade about the possibility of getting travel dollars to attend a subsequent meeting. More than likely, there is not enough travel dollars available to send two sets of winners. Those winners were recognized in a virtual format. It is unfortunate that they did not get to attend. 2021 NACAA AM/PIC July 4-8 Philadelphia, PA. Rumor is that there is a strong possibility for it to be virtual as well. GOTCAA extended the travel dollars for the 2020 Young Professional to attend the 2021 if it happens.

Gary presented to idea of hosting webinars (monthly?) to keep members engaged. Requested that district directors poll their agents about topic ideas and send to Gary. Carole suggested that this would be great opportunity to task committees to present professional development opportunities.

**Membership** – (Scott Carlson) Update on membership drive. For 2021 we currently have 79 who have joined. Emails have been distributed, but need to follow up with reminder. There has been response form all districts. There is a lot to go. Final count for 2020 was 153. Membership totals have to exceed 175 to secure 4 DSA/AA award nominees. Getting members to renew or join is getting increasingly difficult. Wade asked Scott to send the membership list to the directors so that they can prompt those agents that have not renewed or joined. Membership drive ends on Jan 31.

**Website** (Brenda Jackson) – Rich Brennam has a grad student that is currently building our new website. It uses wordpress like the extension blogs. Rich thinks that we should be ready to move info from the current website to the new one after the first of the year. No new software is needed. Costs will be a one-time fee of $35 to move our url from Classic South, there will be a $15 annual fee to maintain web address. Email management will be $20 a year. This will be huge savings!

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

The Executive Board met to review the agenda for the AM/PIC scheduled for the next day.

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