

## **GACAA Board Meeting Minutes**

JCEP – Rock Eagle

March 3, 2020

**Board Members Present** – Wade Parker (President), Keith Fielder (Past President), Gary Hawkins (President Elect), Justin Shealy - zoom (Vice President), Carole Knight (Secretary), Ty Torrance (Treasurer), Aubrey Shirley (SE), Will Gay (SW), Raymond Fitzpatrick (NE), Nathan Eason - zoom (NE), Charlotte Meeks – zoom (SW)

**Others Present** – Scott Carlson – zoom (Membership), Wes Smith – zoom (GOTCAA), Laura Perry Johnson, Mike Martin, Mark McCann

### **Proceedings:**

Meeting called to order 10:05am by Wade Parker.

Keith Fielder gave the invocation and led a moment of silence in memory of Ray Hicks.

**Administrative Report by Laura Perry Johnson** – FY20 budget did pass out the Senate Ag Committee and it is going on to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Expect that it will be voted on this week. She doesn't ever recall it being this late that we didn't have the budget approved. Right to Farm bill has been one of the most contentious – there are numerous folks on both sides of the issue. The House did work to reduce the cuts back to the 4% that agreed to back in August and the Senate upheld that. She anticipates that it should pass fairly easily. FY21 is a bigger guess as to what will happen. They are prioritizing positions and working towards filling the most essential. There are 17 tenure tract faculty positions and almost 50 staff positions. Ways that administration is cutting budget: travel has been limited including PILD trip to Washington, Mike Martin – P3 is going 100% online, utilizing technology more.

**Secretary Report by Carole Knight** – Minutes from January 30, 2020 board meeting were reviewed and discussed. Ty Torrance made a motion to accept the minutes. Raymond Fitzpatrick seconded. Motion approved.

**Treasurer Report by Ty Torrance** – Still working on some last-minute memberships. NACAA will still accept but it will not count towards AA and DSA numbers. Presented the first month bank reconciliation. All the money is now in Grady County. About \$34,000 (but that's going to be minus the check to NACAA for dues) in accounts. Motion to approve from Keith Fielder. Will Gay seconded.

**Membership** – Discussed rolling membership dues into AM/PIC registration and the logistics of handling that. Also look at making district dues the same and consistent.

**President Report by Wade Parker** – Pledges to work on committee structure and making it more user friendly and more functional. Working with Scott Hawbaker, NACAA, to develop a better structure.

**President Elect Report by Gary Hawkins** – Presented a list of sponsors. Asked if anyone had updated contact info for any of these, please share. Meeting is scheduled for November 10-12 at the Georgia Center in Athens. He has rooms blocked. The schedule was discussed. Looks similar but leaves some time for visiting with sponsors. Tours are lined out as well as Monday activities. Looking at the Botanical Gardens for Monday. Ideas for some alternative programming was discussed – benefits talk for retirees, awards discussion, something tailored for new agents.

**Vice President Report by Justin Shealy** – Started planning for Sunbelt Ag Expo.

**Past President Report by Keith Fielder** – Keith is organizing States Night Out for Wade. This will be for Virginia Beach NACAA AM/PIC. Looking at about 30 people. Has secured reservations at Tautogs, a local seafood eatery.

**Northwest District Report** – No representation. Sarah Brood on maternity leave. Lynwood – resigned.

**Northeast District Report by Nathan Eason** – Charlie Todd left Jasper County. David Daniel is leaving Greene County – heading back to Alabama. Zach McCann started in Banks County. Carole Knight in Madison County. Garrett Hibbs started in Hall County. Andrew Warner transferred to Wilkes.

**Southwest District Report by Will Gay** – Ronnie Barentine is retiring March 31. Need to recognize Ronnie from GACAA.

**Southeast District Report by Aubrey Shirley** – Ben Cantrell is leaving Effingham County. Derrick Bowen started in Tattnall and Blake Carter in Liberty.

**GOTCAA Report by Wes Smith** – Will notify Young Professional so that they know that they have some travel monies available. Thank you to the board for donating money in memory of Ray Hicks to the GA Jr Hereford Association.

**Mark McCann** – Todd Hurt will be sending out the need's assessment survey to all the ANR agents. Please fill out. New specialists in Warnell. Website for Farm Recovery will go live soon. Department of Ag is putting together a team to work with applicants.

**Membership** – (Scott Carlson) Struggling to get some folks to renew membership. Agents are realizing that they have not renewed their dues when they try to submit national awards or register for annual meeting.

**ACCG** – Peyton is looking at few different hotel options. They are within a 15-20 minute drive of the convention center. Wade presented to hotel options.

**New members' dues** – Ty Torrance presented the idea of not giving new members their first-year dues for free. We are losing a lot of new agents pretty soon after starting. GACAA has to still pay for their NACAA dues which cost us \$1000 this year. Wade Parker made a motion to stop offering the first-year free membership to new members. Keith Fielder seconded. It will start for the 2021 membership drive in October. Motion is approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm. Joined with the other associations for JCEP Luncheon.

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