**GACAA Board Meeting Minutes**

via Zoom (with JCEP)

March 1, 2021

**Board Members Present** – Wade Parker (Past President), Gary Hawkins (President), Justin Shealy (President Elect), Carole Knight (Secretary), Ty Torrance (Treasurer), 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)

**Absent** – Brenda Jackson (Vice President)

**Proceedings:**

Meeting called to order 9:01am by Gary Hawkins.

Gary gave the invocation.

**Administrative Report from Dr Mark McCann** – Received budget information at district level, so nothing new to report. Small fruit specialist position starting interview. Beef cattle position at Tifton is re-advertised. Andre de Silva left to go to Auburn. Distance production meetings are complete and videos will be shared. UPW trainings will start soon. Dr. Johnson will provide an update during JCEP meeting.

**Secretary Report by Carole Knight** – Minutes from November 11, 2020 board meeting were reviewed and discussed. A few small clerical edits were made. Motion to approve made by Wade Parker. Second by Justin Shealy. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer Report by Ty Torrance** – Treasurer reports were reviewed. Account balances were presented. A profit/loss year to date was presented. Net income was up, due to no in person meetings or events. He presented an overview of the budget. Motion to accept as presented Justin Shealy. Seconded by Raymond Fitzpatrick. Motion passes unanimously.

**President Report by Gary Hawkins** – Still planning to have some GACAA webinars. Heather Kolich and Josh Grant presented a webinar on how to submit good Communications Awards. The JCEP leadership meeting was held a few weeks ago. Gary attended the NACAA breakout meeting during that. They discussed how to be inclusive and have diversity within the organization. Looking at restructuring NACAA AM/PIC’s starting in 2025. Tentative schedule for the rest of GACAA board meetings – June 1, August 2, and November 16.

**President Elect Report by Justin Shealy** – GACAA AM/PIC scheduled for November 16-17, 2021 in Tifton at the RDC. Discussed proposed schedule and logistics. Talked about November ACCG meeting being November 12-13 in Savannah and if that would propose too much of a hardship being that close to the AM/PIC. At this time everything is reversible if COVID restrictions hinders us meeting in-person. Mike Martin says that he anticipates that restrictions will be lifted and that a meeting of our size could happen, but is encouraging groups to have a back-up plan. Wade Parker suggested that we make a final decision at the June 1 board meeting on whether to have it in-person or virtual. Wade made a motion to accept the proposed agenda and dates of Nov 16-17, 2021 in Tifton, GA. Seconded by Ty Torrance. Motion passes unanimously.

**Vice President Report** – Brenda was unable to attend board meeting. Justin reported that Sunbelt Ag Expo is happening. Talks are underway about the food booth and what that’s going to look like including pre-packaged condiments and designated worker jobs. Rooms are being reserved.

**Past President Report by Wade Parker** – Wade wants to continue to look at committee structure and review the handbook. Plans to help Justin with annual meeting.

**Northwest District Report by Paula Burke –** New agent in Troup County – Deborah Mist. “ANR Hours” are happening virtually, there are 18 scheduled throughout the year. Hoping to have a face-to-face ANR training in May. District Director and PDC’s are offering a shadowing opportunity. Mickey Cummings is nominated to the NACAA Hall of Fame.

**Northeast District Report by Raymond Fitzpatrick –** Have pushed membership and been reminding everyone about award deadlines. It is NE turn to nominate a Vie President for the rotation.

**Southwest District Report by** Charlotte Meeks – Blake Cloud transferred from Water Agent to Grady County ANR. Stephanie Hollifield started as SW ANR PDC. Good many open positions. Membership has been pushed within the district.

**Southeast District Report by Aubrey Shirley –** Interviews happening for Coffee, Bulloch, and Agronomy Positions. New Pecan research plot going in at Lyons.

**State Staff Report by Laurel Dunn –** Need to look at replacing Andre de Silva as Senior Director.

The position of Secretary will also be up for election in November. We need to identify a good candidate.

**GOTCAA report** – No report.

**Membership** – Scott Carlson reports, through Wade, that there are approximately 160 active members. Still some coming in. There are 135 life members.

**ACCG** – According to Jeff Christie, there is an ACCG meeting planned for Nov 12-13 in Savannah. Discussed what our presence will look like there and what we can or cannot serve. Most of what we serve is seasonal, so what would our menu look like in the fall? There will be another meeting in April on their normal weekend. Zach Williams is Farmhouse Chair will transition to Brian Hayes.

**Mike Martin** – Reported on what organizations funds look like for FY 2021/2022. Dr. Johnson is committed to keeping association funds level. Below is the breakdown of funds available.

$7000 – NACAA AM/PIC

$800 – JCEP Southern Officer Workshop

$2000 – PILD

$400 – JCEP Spring Board Mtg

$700 – EXEC Board Travel

$4000 – FARMHOUSE

He encouraged GACAA to participate in these events, we have the support of CAES.

More discussion needs to be had with ACCG and Farm Bureau about what this we need to do and prepare for.

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 10:30pm.

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