

## **GACAA Board Meeting Minutes**

Online via Zoom

July 30, 2020

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

**Others Present** – Brenda Jackson (Website Coordinator), Wes Smith – (GOTCAA)

Absent – Gary Hawkins (President Elect)

### **Proceedings:**

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

Keith Fielder gave the invocation.

**Secretary Report by Carole Knight** – Minutes from March 3, 2020 board meeting were reviewed and discussed. Keith Fielder made a motion to accept the minutes. Ty Torrance seconded. Motion approved.

**Treasurer Report by Ty Torrance** – Discussed District Treasurers and differences in membership dues. Does each District need a separate account? How is the Treasurer elected/appointed? Propose making District dues the same across districts and move all to GACAA main account. Keith Fielder said hat the dues fees were set even before he was Treasurer. Money is used for memorials, district functions, and retirement events/gifts. Concern for consistency and lack of knowledge being handed down to directors. It is recommended that monies be held by GACAA and then requested by districts. Dues structure is not in by-laws but it is recommended to let the Districts vote on what to do and how to proceed.

**President / President Elect Report by Wade Parker** – Proposed a Virtual GACAA AM/PIC and discussed tentative agenda. GACAA not considered essential travel, so agents could not attend a face-to-face meeting.

**NACAA Update by Stuart Gauthier, Southern Regions Director from LA** – Many other states are struggling with the decision as to how to have their annual meeting. The NACAA AM/PIC is going to be virtual with no charge. Please pre-register so that they can plan and notify participants of upcoming events. NACAA AM/PIC 2021 is in Philadelphia, PA.

**Vice President Report by Justin Shealy** – Sunbelt Ag Expo 2020 is cancelled. He has cancelled hotel rooms. Checking with Chip to get vendor fee reimbursed. Specialist Award – Sr - Bodie Penisi and Wes Porter were nominated. Jr – Bhabesh Dutta and Andre de Silva were nominated. Will send Qualtrics survey for voting. Friend of County Agent nominations – Vann Murphy, Chip Blalock and Tom McCall. Tom McCall is still a sitting representative and historically we do not give the award to a sitting politician. Chip has already received in the past. Is Van Murphy too localized? The nominees were discussed and whether or not to award FOCA this year. Nominees are deserving but it is prestigious enough to award this virtually? Voted to postpone awarding the FOCA this year.

**Northwest District Report by Steve Morgan** – New Hires - Ashley Best (Newton County), Haley Perriman (Cobb County) Departures – Jessica Lillibo (Troup County), Ryan Brown (Meriwether)

**Northeast District Report by Nathan Eason** – Departures – David Daniel (Greene), Patrick Marcellino (Elbert), Mark Koehn (McDuffie) Charlie Todd (Jasper) New Hires – Sarah Cranston (McDuffie)

**Southwest District Report by Charlotte Meeks** – Departures – Will Gay (Colquitt) Hopefully to be scheduling a retirement event for Ronnie Barentine

**Southeast District Report by Aubrey Shirley** – Departures – Brooke Hampton (Wheeler), Turner Spratlin (Glenn)

**State Staff Report by Andre de Silva** – Nothing to report. Everything is currently frozen due to budget.

**GOTCAA Report by Wes Smith** – Trying to get money moved out and in one location. Had informed YP (Melissa Mattee) that they would fund her a trip to NACAA in 2021 due to 2020 being moved to virtual.

### **Business**

**Committee Structure / GACAA Handbook** – Carole presented the new committee structure. She is asking the directors and current committee chairs to create a good description of duties and awards responsible for. This is to update the handbook and provide the information needed to actively engage new members. The structure was discussed. Carole will work with Brenda Jackson to get committees updated on website. The motion was made to accept the new committee structure as presented by Keith Fielder. Nathan Eason seconded the motion. It was discussed about appointing a Program Recognition Chair and a Professional Improvement and Awards Council Chair. Although there are no plans to appoint one right now, we will leave them as stands for the future. Motion passes unanimously.

**Website (Brenda Jackson)** – Have chatted with Rich Brahnam from Urban Ag to talk about changing the website hosting. Could be little or no money. He suggested she look at Elementor, wordpress based web building software. Has a commerce builder that could potentially replace Wufoo. Pricing is cheaper than what we are paying now and will look better. Brenda will visit with Rich and then present to Board in November.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

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