

**The Georgia Society of CPAs  
Fall Council Meeting  
November 14, 2016  
Savannah, Georgia**

**Minutes**

<b><i>Board of Directors:</i></b>	<b><i>Council Members at Large:</i></b>	<b><i>Council Members at Large Continued:</i></b>	<b><i>Past Presidents/Chairs:</i></b>
Rodney Chandler	Noel Adbur-Rahim	Chris Miller	Ruth Bartlett
K. Scott Collins	Becky Agnew	Gina Miller	Colin Blalock
Barbara Evans	Judy Arnold	Kathy Moreno	Stewart Carlin
Lee Ellen Fields	Cromwell Baun	Frances Morrison	Mike Cauley
G. Tom Harrison	Jason Blair	Larry Nichols	Julian Deal
Kirk Jarrett	Jana Bledsoe	Marlan Nichols	John Giddens
Lowell Mooney	Walt Bryde	Denise O'Connell	Paula Mooney
Debbie Thaw	Phillip Buelterman	Joel Pascaner	Terry Parker
James Underwood	Amanda Carmen	Rose Patti	Darrell Thaw
Boyd Search	Larry Cohen	John Pettigrew	Jim Underwood
Brandon Verner	Carlton Collins	Anita Pittman	
	Andrea Comeau-Shirley	Jodi Prevost	
<b><i>Chapter Presidents:</i></b>	Lisa Conti-Bacon	Kay Proctor	
Jacquelyn Anderson	Kelly Cranford	Lisa Robinson	
Ben Brannin	Frank D'Urban Jackson	Evelyn Rosier	
Nick Bruner	Bob Darden	Paula Sands	
Frances Gahagen	Bob Dow	Mike Skinner	
Tom Hoyt	Laurie Dyke	Geoffrey Smith	
J.D. Hunt	Darla Eden	Sondra Smith	
Ralph Knight	Kathryn Fletcher	Dwight Sneathen	
Jack Milner	David Greer	Joetta Thomas	
Carl Peabody	Beth Grimes	Margaret Waldrep	
Elise Stevens	Denise Grove	Jim Warren	
Christina Young	Shawn Hale		
	Bill Harshman	<b><i>Committee Chairs:</i></b>	
<b><i>Chapter Representatives:</i></b>	Becky Hines	Beverly Smith	
Leigh Allen	Carlton Hodges		
Kyle Baxter	John Holden	<b><i>Staff:</i></b>	
Valerie Bowron	Bo Jackson	Elizabeth Cook	
Diane Futch	David Julian	Don Cook	
Daisha Hayes	Brian Klinkert	Callie Hammond	
Lou Kuntz	Ben Lee	Jessica Mytrohovich	
Melanie Orsini	Kevin Lipford	Missy Smith	
Philip Young	Tim Lyons	Greg Wilder	
	John Masters	Calvin Wong	
	Jerry Maxwell		
	Martha Merritt		

**I. Call to Order**

Barbara Evans, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. American Legion Post 184 presented the colors and recognized the veterans in the room.

**II. Invocation**

Marlan Nichols provided the invocation.

**III. Recognition of Past Presidents/Chairs**

Barbara Evans recognized the past presidents and past chairs in attendance.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made and approved to accept the minutes as presented.

**V. Nominating Committee Report**

Dr. Lowell Mooney presented the names being nominated to serve on the nominating committee. The requirements to serve on the nominating committee were discussed. Council members were asked to select 3 members on the ballot included in their packet and return to GSCPA staff.

**VI. Q&A with Kyle Wingfield**

Kyle Wingfield is the AJC's conservative columnist. He joined the AJC in 2009 after writing for the Wall Street Journal, based in Brussels, and the Associated Press, based in Atlanta and Montgomery, Ala. He is a native of Dalton and a graduate of the University of Georgia.

Kyle presented a recap of the election, both at the national level and the state level, and what the election results mean to Georgians. In addition, he fielded questions from the audience. Some of the questions/discussions were about press protection, GA Amendment 1 (opportunity schools), the 2017 State Legislative Session, Facebook news feeds and marketing, construction on the interstates and traffic issues.

**VII. Audit Committee Report**

Stewart Carlin thanked the Audit Committee Members. He provided Council with a brief Audit Committee report. Ms. Evans thanked Mr. Carlin for his service on the audit committee and presented him with a pad folio.

The Council received the Audit report.

**VIII. Appointment of Audit Committee Member**

Ms. Evans recommended Ben Lee to the Audit Committee and read his biography. Ms. Evans called for a vote from Leadership Council for his appointment. All that agreed said Aye, the Ayes were in favor. There are no Nays.

## **IX. Chair's Report**

Barbra Evans presented her chair's report.

Ms. Evans discussed the places she has visited throughout the year – chapters, schools, colleges, firms, and other organizations. She gave an AICPA Council update on cyber security, election discussion, estate planning, and the installation of Kimberly Ellison Taylor, the first African American to Chair AICPA. Ms. Evans presented the "CPAs in Action" video and spoke about creating more awareness and communication about what a CPA does. She is involved in many speaking engagements in schools of all levels and school-based programs to increase the pipeline.

Ms. Evans introduced Evelyn Rosier to discuss a high school program. Ms. Rosier discussed GSCPA's Advancement for Rising Professionals program. Ms. Rosier recapped the entire day including the agenda, the feedback from students and the volunteer involvement. Over twenty students were in attendance from Atlanta Public Schools and five scholarships were awarded. Highlights of the program were presented through a slide show. Scott Collins also spoke about his involvement and put out a call for volunteers once the program is expanded, both financial and time.

Ms. Evans introduced Kathryn Epps to discuss a college program. CAP-D is the Consortium for Accounting Professional Diversity Initiative. Ms. Evans has spoken with NABA, NASBA, and the AICPA about being a part of this program and they are very interested. Ms. Epps shared some statistics about minorities in the accounting profession. She also discussed the information gap including the lack of awareness, family legacy, financial barriers and confusion about the CPA exam. The CAP-D project is designated to help with these information gaps. CAP-D was explained further including the following:

1. The program has a stipend component.
2. The program targets the best and brightest students. These are the things students need to do: take these classes, keep a certain GPA, etc.
3. At the end of 5 years, students must complete their undergraduate accounting degree, complete their masters in accounting, get 150 hours, and pass the CPE exam.

The floor opened for questions and comments.

Will there be a mentoring component? Yes. They will be matched as an undergrad with a current MACC student or young CPA. Both the mentor and mentee will get a stipend.

The programs at these schools are weak. Curriculum alignment was mentioned. Take the class syllabus and pay the professors to come together to align the curriculum. There is a need to make the curriculum stronger and better. In addition to curriculum alignment, there is a need to address the quality of the professors.

Four deans are in the favor of the program and ready to move forward ASAP.

Ms. Epps gave her background and history.

CAP-D is not a short-term project. The planning for the program has just started and the group wants to continue to move the needle.

**X. Treasurer's Report**

Brandon Verner, treasurer, presented the report. Being four months into the fiscal year, the balance sheet remains strong. The budget is evenly spread through the year and this is a non-reporting year which results in some timing variances.

The Council has received the Treasurer's report.

*The Council Meeting recessed for the Educational Foundation Meeting.*

**XI. The Educational Foundation Report**

Beverly Smith, president of the Educational Foundation, provided the report.

Dr. Mooney presented the Howard Herman Award to Martha Merritt, who gave a few remarks. This award was also presented during the Educational Foundation meeting on Sunday, November 13 as well.

Mr. Boyd Search spoke about the Educational Foundation Golf Tournament. The Foundation has had the golf tournament for four years now. He applauded James Freeman for his chairmanship of the 2016 Golf Tournament. Last year, it was held at a more expensive course. Mr. Search offered three choices for this year: discontinue it, find another title sponsor, or go back to Dogwood Country Club. The group choose option three. It will lower the cost, lower the burden of the chair, and achieve the same type of fundraising.

Ms. Smith discussed strategic planning including a yearlong task force, short term goals, and long term goals. The deadline for scholarships will now accommodate graduate students. This will encourage students to apply to grad schools early and apply for scholarships.

Last fall less than a one-third of council had donated to the Educational Foundation, this year over 50% of Council Members have donated. The Council received the annual giving sheet. 90% of the donations received come from the Leadership Council and the Educational Foundation Board.

Ms. Smith introduced the new Educational Foundation logo. She discussed how Faith Ellis, graphic designer at GSCPA, created the logo and the history of the old logo.

*Reconvene the Council Meeting*

**XII. Nominating Committee Election Results**

Dr. Mooney, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the results of the Nominating Committee Election to elect 3 new members to Nominating Committee. The three new members of the Nominating Committee are Ian Waller, Jennifer Birtz, and Ben Lee.

**XIII. AICPA Council Meeting Update**

Terry Parker gave the AICPA Council meeting update. AICPA is changing the fiscal year to a calendar year end, which will be more in line with CIMA. Year of governance will move to a Spring year. The new chair of the AICPA and the chair-elect are going to serve 15 month terms to change the chairs in Spring.

Mr. Parker discussed enhancing audit quality and changes to the CPA exam, peer review, and enforcement.

Ms. Evans thanked Mr. Parker for serving his three years and for all that he has done.

**XIV. Open Forum**

Kathryn Fletcher announced a save the date for Annual Convention 2017 on June 4-7 at One Ocean Resort in Atlantic Beach, Florida. She has made this her family vacation and encourages everyone to join them.

Carlton Hodges discusses renewal for health insurance. He suggested to consider getting insurance through the insurance trust.

Jim Underwood presented the Georgia Federal Tax Conference check of \$3,000 to The Society. The Society runs the conference, and they appreciate the relationship.

Denise Grove discussed financial literacy and encouraged the Council to use the "CPAs in Action" video. She announced Millennial Money is November 17, 2016.

Julian Deal shared some additional updates. Allen Poole and Linda got married, and they are on their honeymoon; the legal officer who performed the ceremony was and is available James P. Martin "Jim". He also explained the CPA exam changing; over 300 new CPAs have been approved by the state board in the last four months.

**XV. CGMA Update and Roundtables**

Ms. Evans opened the discussion on CGMA.

The CGMA Program was created to produce competent and confident finance professionals who can guide and lead their own organizations to sustainable success and drive better business decisions. This is done by a competency formula, syllabus, learnings, and exams, and member and lifelong learning opportunities. AICPA owns this credential and CGMA's must keep up their membership to keep credential. CGMA is for someone who has a finance or business degree; not necessarily an accounting degree.

The proposal of a 50/50 partnership is explained between AICPA and GSCPA to work together to recruit, serve and retain members. The revenue would be shared. The target markets for the CGMA are as follows: the 46K finance and accounting professionals younger than 35, 180

employers (\$500M-\$15B), 610 employers (more than an \$100M), 33 university business programs and more than 7100 business degrees conferred per year.

Mr. Search explained additional components of the partnership. The partnership is in process. The Board of Directors has not decided how to proceed, because they want to hear from Council. The Board will take what they hear today back to their discussions. There will be two asks of Council next Spring. The budget to show the operational investment with CGMA will be shared. A slight change in the associate membership definition will need to be ratified, so non CPA CGMAs will be non-voting members.

The Board of Directors will decide in December, if not February on how to proceed, and it will be on the agenda. Rodney Chandler polls the Council: Are you on board with the 50/50 arrangements or not? Everyone is generally in favor of the 50/50 partnership.

Barbara thanked the panel.

**XVI. Adjourn**

Barbara thanked everyone for their time, for coming today, and for being on Leadership Council. Email any of the Board at any time to ask any questions (D&I, CGMA, etc.)

The next meeting is May 7-8, 2017 at Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier. The meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boyd E. Search".

Boyd E. Search, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer/Secretary