

**The Georgia Society of CPAs
Fall Council Meeting
November 7, 2022
Callaway Gardens
Pine Mountain, Georgia
Minutes**

Board of Directors Present: Cromwell Baun, Kathryn Fletcher, Carlton Hodges , Chris Miller, Jodi Prevost, Debbie Thaw, Susan Tillery

Members at Large Present: Robin Bennett, Jason Blair, Valerie Bowron, Walt Bryde, Phillip Buelterman, Sandra Buttram, Greg Chapman, Kelly Cranford, Nina Daigle, Adrienne Davis, Sarah Dekutowski, Bob Dow, Karen Drescher, Frank D'Urban Jackson, Darla Eden, Elizabeth Hardin, Bill Harshman, Catherine Houston, Jake Jones, Jeff Kess, Brian Klinkert, Ralph Knight, Kevin Lipford, Debra McGlaun, Eric McGlothen, Martha Merritt, Will Merritt, Denise O'Connell, Paul Oddo, Joel Pascaner, Rose Patti, Julie Petherbridge, Geoff Rhines, Paula Sands, Rob Schwarzmans, Randall Shrum, Mike Skinner, Sondra Smith, Joli Stuckey, Joetta Thomas, Jimmy Warren, Cecily Welch, Jeff Wright

Chapter Presidents/Reps Present: Hannah Bentley, Jack Crawford, Lori Norton, Chase Burnfin

Past Presidents/Chairs Present: Mike Cauley, Scott Collins, James Freeman, Tom Harrison, Kirk Jarrett, Terry Parker, Bill Schneider, Harvey Tarpley, Darrell Thaw, Scott Voynich

Staff Present: Don Cook, Elizabeth Cook, Caryn Faulkner, Brandi Kornegay, Boyd Search, Greg Wilder Calvin Wong

I. Call to Order

Debbie Thaw, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Quorum has been established.

II. Invocation

Chris Miller provided the invocation.

III. Recognition of Past Presidents/Chairs

All Past Presidents and Chairs of the Society present were recognized.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The 2022 Spring Leadership Council meeting minutes were accepted as presented.

Council Meeting was recessed for the Educational Foundation Meeting

V. Educational Foundation

Abriel Davis encouraged all to donate to the Educational Foundation. Ms. Davis announced the opening of the scholarship application as of November 1. She encouraged educators to promote scholarships and apply for funds through the Cash for Professional Awareness Program. Finally, she thanked everyone for their support.

Reconvene the Council Meeting

VI. AICPA Council Report

Tom Harrison presented the report. The AICPA Fall Council Meeting was held in Chicago with the attendance of GSCPA representatives as follows Torie Barry, Carlton Hodges, Boyd Search, Debbie Thaw, Scott Voynich, and Greg Wilder. Mr. Harrison noted the Adapt and Thrive theme of the meeting. High points included recognition of the Lifetime Achievement Award and a Legislative Update. Finally notes from the meeting were significance of storytelling to promote the attractiveness of firms and the profession to attract talent.

VII. Insurance Trust Update

Carlton Hodges gave the update. Mr. Hodges noted the deadline of renewal as March 1. He promoted the trust and asked those of interested or concerns to reach out to him and Sterling Seacrest Pritchard.

VIII. Treasurer's Report

Kathryn Fletcher began the report noting the financials are in each packet to be reviewed. Ms. Fletcher provided an update on the Audit in which Lee Ellen Fields chaired the committee. The Audit concluded with a clean opinion. Ms. Fletcher highlighted the current favorable position to offset CPE used to maintain this year's budget. Finally, the budgeting process for the upcoming year has begun.

Members received the treasurer's report as presented.

IX. Chair's/CEO Report

Boyd Search, GSCPA CEO, and Debbie Thaw, GSCPA Chair, were spotlighted as speakers.

Mr. Search started the report by thanking Jason Blair, the Foundation Golf Tournament

Champion, James Freeman, title sponsor, and all sponsors and players for their support of the Educational Foundation through the Golf Tournament.

The Georgia Accounting Food Fight was next on the agenda. The 2022 event was a record year raising over \$372,000. Sondra Smith then challenged all educators to participate next year by getting peers and students involved.

Rising Professionals began at Smith & Howard in 2015 with the purpose to promoting the accounting profession to high school juniors and seniors. Thirty students attended the program in The Society Office. Evelyn Rosier was thanked for chairing the program.

Filing For Freedom began three years ago. GSCPA supports this program through logistics, marking, and volunteers. This great program has gained momentum and the Department to Defense has become aware of it. There is a possibility of expanding to the other states. The program has already expanded in Georgia to first responders. There is a need for money, volunteers, and food donations for volunteers. As Filing for Freedom continues to grow, there will be a need for more time, talent, and energy. James Freeman was thanked for his hard work.

IRS Funding was next on the agenda for discussion. The accounting profession's mission is to make sure the taxpayers have the resources they need to abide by the law and pay their taxes. A large sum of money is to be allocated to better the business of the IRS. This continues to be an important issue. Previously, a GSCPA Delegation met with Congressman Carter with the purpose of helping him understand how HB 1 need to be changed/edits. The goal is to get Congress to continue to help the IRS. The IRS has outdated systems and employment issues. Questions were taken from the floor.

A State Board of Accountancy Update was provided. The Society is thankful for the relationship with the State Board. Paula Ziga, Clay Huffman, Elizabeth Hardin, and Mike Skinner were acknowledged. Recently, the State Board requested assistance with a task force to discuss CPE Ethics requirements in Georgia. This task force is complete, and the outcome is currently unknown. Another task force was assembled to discuss A&A CPE Requirements (currently 16 hours). Another recommendation was made, and the conversation has advanced. Possibly, CPAs will be required to have technical topics that pertain to the profession and at least a portion of their CPE. GSCPA does have some concerns, which have been expressed. Questions and discussion were taken from the floor.

CPE financial statements reflect a change in the market. The Society does not want to overact to these changes and plans to make decisions over time. As an organization, staff and leadership are evaluating the marketplace on how to handle future changes. GSCPA is hyper focused on CPAs and the profession. The Society feels confident to manage the market and adapt and thrive to work through any challenges. Questions and discussion were taken from the floor.

The Educator Key Person Program has launched and more information may be found at the registration desk or by connecting with staff.

Save the date for CPA Day at the Gold Dome on January 26, 2023.

X. Nominating Committee Election Results

Tom Harrison, chair of the nominating committee, presented the slate of members to be elected for the Nominating Committee and recapped the requirements to serve on the Nominating Committee. The election was conducted via paper ballots. Mr. Harrison then presented the results from the Nominating Committee election. The three newly elected members are Hannah Bentley, Kelly Cranford, and Bob Dow.

XI. Audit Committee Report

Lee Ellen Fields provided the Audit Committee report via video. The Audit Committee has met and reviewed the financial statements. Aprio has no reportable issues with either The Society or Educational Foundation. She thanked leadership and staff.

Ms. Thaw thanked Ms. Fields for her work.

XII. Appointment of Audit Committee Member

Ms. Thaw recommended the appointment of Karen Drescher to serve on the Audit Committee. The ayes are in favor of the appointment of Karen Drescher

XIII. Election Update

Kyle Wingfield provided an election update.

XIV. Legislative Update

Don Cook and Tripp Martin provided a legislative update.

XV. 150-Hour Discussion

An open discussion around the room was established on the topic of requiring 150 Educational hours to become a CPA in Georgia. Many points were evaluated including pros/cons and optics of changing this requirement. It was noted that multiple states are already working on making local changes. GSCPA is keeping a close eye on this as a national discussion and the impacts each state may have on another.

XVI. Open Forum

Nick Bruner reported on Annual Convention 2023 at the Alyeska Resort in Girdwood, Alaska.

XVII. Adjourn

Ms. Thaw thanked everyone for their time, and for being a part of Leadership Council. The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Boyd E. Search, CAE
Chief Executive Officer/Secretary