

**The Georgia Society of CPAs  
Fall Council Meeting  
October 26, 2020  
Virtual**

**Minutes**

**Board of Directors:** Cromwell Baun, Kathryn Fletcher, James Freeman, Tom Harrison, Carlton Hodges, Kirk Jarrett, Jeffrey Kess, Chris Miller, Evelyn Rosier, Debbie Thaw, Cecily Welch

**Past Presidents/Chairs:** Colin Blalock, Stewart Carlin, Michael Cauley, Rodney Chandler, Scott Collins, Barbara Evans, John Giddens, Lowell Moony, Paula Mooney, Denise Mummert, Terry Parker, Darrell Thaw, Scott Voynich

**Member at Large:** Torie Barry, Robin Bennett, Valerie Bowron, Nick Bruner, Walt Bryde, Phillip Buelterman, Ross Cannon, Gregory Chapman, Larry Cohen, Sarah Dekutowski, Frank Durban Jackson, Laurie Dyke, Lee Ellen Fields, Danyelle George, Denise Grove, Bill Harshman, John Holden, Clay Huffman, Mike Imber, Frank Jones, Tabitha Jones, Ralph Knight, Steven Laine, John Masters, Jerry Maxwell, Shawn McCall, Debra McGlaun, Erin McLeod, Martha Merritt, Karen Mueller, Paul Oddo, Joel Pascaner, Rose Patti, Carl Peabody, Jodi Prevost, James Ray, Brad Reeder, Paula Sands, Robert Schwarzman, Randy Shrum, Mike Skinner, Beverly Smith, Geoff Smith, Sondra Smith, Dwight Sneathen, Joli Stuckey, Joetta Thomas, James Underwood, Margaret Waldrep, Jimmy Warren, Amanda Wilkson, Jeffrey Wright

**Chapter Representatives:** Robert Douglas, Bob Dow, Keara Dowling, Dylan Middleton, Courtney Parm, Janna Tanner, Roderick Williams

**Guests:** Amy King, Clay Pilgrim, Sean Taylor, Maliece Whatley

**Staff:** Don Cook, Elizabeth Cook, Callie Hammond, Jessica Mytrohovich, Boyd Search, Greg Wilder, Calvin Wong

**I. Call to Order**

Kirk Jarrett, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**II. Invocation**

Rodney Chandler provided the invocation.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The 2020 Spring Leadership Council meeting minutes were accepted as presented.

**IV. Chair's/CEO Report**

Boyd Search, CEO and Mr. Jarrett were spotlighted as speakers.

Mr. Jarrett began the report discussing the new CPA licensure model. NASBA and AICPA are working jointly on this process to be launched in 2024. The core will still include subjects necessary to the profession with outside pieces to allow the exam to enhance the profession.

Next, Mr. Jarrett gave an update on the .cpa domain. There are requirements to obtain a .cpa domain. Mr. Jarrett noted the upcoming deadline and encouraged all to review this information through the AICPA. This is an area the profession is trying to take a lead on.

Food Fight recently completed its seventh year. We have raised more than one million dollars collectively since 2014 and provided over four million meals across the state. This year, over two hundred eight five thousand dollars was raised. He thanked those who participated and reiterated the importance of giving back. He congratulated all winners.

Boyd Search provided an update on Diversity and Inclusion. He thanked Darrell Thaw and Barbara Evans for being instrumental in this endeavor for GSCPA. This has been a strategic priority for several years and our goals have been to raise awareness of the pathways to become a CPA in minority communities, raise awareness of cultural benefits of a diverse workplace to our memberships, and be intentional in our commitment to diversity. Mr. Search then provided an update on the Rising Professionals Program.

Mr. Search began a Legislative Update and gave an overview of the upcoming elections both at the state level and national level. He discussed voter participation statistics as of this meeting and comparison to previous years. He discussed the Georgia Senate elections. Mr. Search also noted races of the Georgia House that are significant to the CPA profession. Next, Mr. Search discussed other CPA leadership news from around the state. He encouraged all to vote.

Mr. Search then provided a GSCPA Operations and COVID Update. Membership is doing well and the incentive of eight free hours of CPE was successful. CPE shifted to fully virtual and was very positive both to the bottom line and member experience. Peer Review has seen a small slow down, though is still very strong. Ethics Committee has experienced different challenges

this year. Staffing is currently under a hiring and raise freeze. The Board Retreat will be in person coming up soon with a virtual option. A major discussion point during this retreat will be future in person events. He ended the update with the noting of long-term concerns and overall outlook.

**V. Audit Committee Report**

John Holden was highlighted as a speaker. The Audit Committee has met and reviewed the financial statements. Aprio has no reportable issues with either the Society or Educational Foundation. Hancock Askew has no reportable issues with the Insurance Trust. He thanked leadership and staff. Mr. Holden concluded with the advisement of more risk assessment and fraud training for Society employees. Mr. Jarrett thanked Mr. Holden for his work.

**VI. Appointment of Audit Committee Member**

Mr. Jarrett recommended the appointment of Brad Reeder to serve on the Audit Committee. A poll was utilized for voting and the ayes are in favor of the appointment of Brad Reeder.

**VII. AICPA Council Report**

Tom Harrison presented the report. Mr. Harrison discussed attending the virtual, two-day council. During the program, Barry Melancon provided an update on the profession's response to COVID. Mr. Melancon summarized efforts, programs, advocacy, and resources provided by the ACIPA on behalf of the profession. Commentary was discussed on the profession's adaptation during COVID. CPA Evolution is in the implementation phase. Mr. Harrison also discussed the .cpa domain. He gave a recap of awards presented. In addition, a Diversity and Inclusion Panel and a Legislative Update were provided during the virtual event. The program concluded with an informative panel on driving business resiliency in a COVID-19 world.

**VIII. Treasurer's Report**

Debbie Thaw, treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. Mrs. Thaw noted a positive variance over budget. CPE margins are doing great, thanks to the efficient transition to the fully virtual platform. The training center will not be rented out and a small loss will be incurred. Membership is holding strong and there has been an increase in student members. Peer Review fees are slightly up, though will likely change over the next few months. There is a timing issue with the Educational Foundation producing deferred revenue. Investments are doing great as well. Jessica Mytrohovich assisted with the report.

*The members received the treasurer's report as presented.*

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

**IX. Educational Foundation Annual Meeting of the Members**

Mr. Jarrett acknowledged the passing of John Cook and asked for a moment of silence. Clay Pilgrim, president of The Educational Foundation, presented the Fall Educational Foundation report. Mr. Pilgrim announced Kelly Cranford as this year's Outstanding Accounting Educator.

Mr. Pilgrim reminded everyone we will have a 2021 Golf Tournament on May 17 at Windermere Golf Club. Mr. Pilgrim reminded everyone to donate to the Educational Foundation to support the best and brightest in Georgia through scholarships and academic support programs.

Mr. Pilgrim then adjourned the meeting of the member for The Educational Foundation.

*Reconvene the Council Meeting*

**X. Nominating Committee Election Results**

James Freeman, 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. He thanked those who took time to vote prior to the meeting. Mr. Freeman then presented the results from the Nominating Committee election. The three newly elected members are Tracey Sharkey, Courtney Parm, and Stewart Carlin.

**XI. Insurance Trust Update**

Carlton Hodges gave the update. Mr. Hodges reminded everyone this is one of the many advantages of Society membership. The trustees work hard to make sure they are offering products that are valuable to you and your firm. Health, dental, and vision insurance is extended along with voluntary benefits. The renewal date has been moved to March 1<sup>st</sup>. Trends are looking good for this year. Mr. Hodges encouraged all to review the plans and reach out to Patrick Bell with any questions.

**XII. Awards Presentation**

The 2020 Public Service Award was presented to Sean Taylor, CPA.  
The 2020 Outstanding Member in Industry Award was presented to Amy King, CPA.  
The 2020 Meritorious Service Award was presented to Michael Cauley, CPA.

**XIII. Open Forum**

Lee Ellen Fields, chair of the Annual Convention Task Force, reminded everyone of the 2021 dates of June 13-16 at SandPearl Resort in Clearwater Beach, Florida. She then announced the 2022 Convention at the Samoset Resort in Maine June 5-8.

Mr. Jarrett encouraged everyone to donate to the PAC and Educational Foundation.

Mr. Search thanked everyone for their response to the Food Fight and thanked everyone for the opportunity to be apart of this profession. Mr. Jarrett echoed this sentiment.

**XIV. Adjourn**

Mr. Jarrett thanked everyone for their time, and for being a part of Leadership Council. The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boyd E. Search". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Boyd" being the most prominent part.

Boyd E. Search, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer/Secretary