

**The Georgia Society of CPAs  
Fall Council Meeting  
November 11, 2019  
Hotel at Avalon  
Alpharetta, Georgia**

**Minutes**

<b>Board of Directors:</b>	<b>Council Members at Large:</b>	<b>Council Members At large Continued:</b>	<b>Past Presidents/Chairs:</b>
Scott Collins	Victoria Barry	Brian Klinkert	Colin Blalock
Kathryn Fletcher	Matthew Beacham	John Masters	Rodney Chandler
James Freeman	Robin Bennett	Jerry Maxwell	Lowell Mooney
Elizabeth Hardin	Jason Blair	Shawn McCall	Paula Mooney
Tom Harrison	Valerie Bowron	Debra McGlaun	Terry Parker
Carlton Hodges	Nicholas Bruner	Erin McLeod	Darrell Thaw
Kirk Jarrett	Walton Bryde	Karen Mueller	Scott Voynich
Charlie Merritt	Phillip Buelterman	Larry Nichols	
Chris Miller	Ross Cannon	Denise O'Connell	<b>Chapter Presidents</b>
Boyd Search	Amanda Carman	Paul Oddo	Bob Dow
Debbie Thaw	Jennifer Chapman	Joel Pascaner	Denise Smith
James Underwood	Gregory Chapman	Rose Patti	Jacob Sheffield
Cecily Welch	Lawrence Cohen	Carl Peabody	
	Andrea Comeau-Shirley	John Pettigrew	<b>Chapter Reps</b>
<b>Staff:</b>	Sarah Dekutowski	Jodi Prevost	David Alexander
Don Cook	Matthew Drayer	Lisa Robinson	Courtney Camp
Elizabeth Cook	Karen Drescher	Alicia Ruttinger	Misty Chancey
Callie Hammond	Francis D'urban Jackson	Emily Sanders	Krystal Comer
Colleen McGlade	Laurie Dyke	Paula Sands	Josh Hinson
Jessica Mytrohovich	Darla Eden	Randall Shrum	Crystal Jones
Steve Olsen	LeeEllen Fields	Michael Skinner	Matt Sellers
Missy Ureda	Jeffery Forrestall	Beverly Smith	
Greg Wilder	Joshua Forsyth	Geoffrey Smith	
Calvin Wong	Danyelle George	Joli Stuckey	
	Denise Grove	Jason Sweatt	<b>Guests</b>
	John Holden	Brandon Verner	Rebecca Agnew
	Frank Jones	James Warren	Patrick Hill
	Tabitha Jones	Randall Webb	Clay Pilgrim
	David Julian	Amanda Wilkson	

**I. Call to Order**

James Freeman, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**II. Presentation of the Flags and National Anthem**

The Georgia Society of Sons of the American Revolution presented the colors and said the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Freeman recognized the veterans in the room.

**III. Invocation**

Rodney Chandler provided the invocation.

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

Mr. Freeman recognized the past presidents and past chairs in attendance. Mr. Freeman also recognized the new Council Member-at-Large in attendance.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

The 2019 Spring Leadership Council meeting minutes were accepted as presented.

**VI. Nominating Committee Election**

Scott Collins, chair of the nominating committee, presented the slate of members to be elected for the Nominating Committee.

**VII. Audit Committee Report**

John Holden approached the podium. The audit committee has received the audit report. Aprio will be issuing the opinion for The Educational Foundation and The Georgia Society of CPAs. Hancock Askew will offer the letters for Insurance Trust. Management has addressed the issues. The Society plans to solidify a fraud prevention program for controls.

Mr. Freeman presented Mr. Holden with a gift on behalf of the Society.

**VIII. Appointment of Audit Committee Member**

Mr. Freeman recommended the appointment of Lee Ellen Fields to serve on the Audit Committee. Mr. Freeman then called for a vote and the ayes are in favor of the appointment of Lee Ellen Fields.

**IX. Outstanding Member in Industry Award Presentation**

The 2019 Outstanding Member in Industry Award was presented to Patrick Hill, CPA.

**X. Panel Discussion: GSCPA Board of Directors**

Boyd Search lead a panel discussion with Kathryn Fletcher, James Underwood, and Tom Harrison.

**XI. AICPA Council Report**

Rodney Chandler presented the report. Mr. Chandler noted the most recent AICPA Council meeting was held in October in Seattle. This Council is a room of leaders from across the nation who meet three time a year. A main focus of the Fall meeting was discussion of the bi-annual survey of firms of all sizes from various locations. Finding and retaining staff continues to be a big challenge amongst those who answered the survey. In addition to technology and succession planning. Mr. Chandler noted the AICPA is providing resources on these areas; including, but not limited to, materials to assist with recruiting and how to retain staff and

data security. AICPA boasted their resources on succession planning and selling firms. The AICPA discussed recruiting talent in the pipeline at a younger level.

Next, Mr. Chandler provided an Enhanced Audit Quality update. AICPA reported progress on over 90% of those engagements that had initially received negative findings. Dynamic Audit Solution, DAS, is still under development and going through beta testing.

Mr. Chandler then discussed CGMA. This designation remains mostly still overseas and international. Many in this room likely received CGMA through grandfathered status. Approximately, 50,000 grandfathered CGMA designations were issued in the US in the first year, however, that number is now just over 30,000.

Finally, Rodney announced that after years of negotiation, the AICPA now owns the internet domain of “.cpa”. CPA firms that meet certain criteria will be eligible to have a “.cpa” domain. For more information, please visit [domains.cpa.com](http://domains.cpa.com)

## **XII. Chair's/CEO Report**

Boyd Search, CEO and Mr. Freeman approached the podium.

Mr. Freeman started with a recap since the last Leadership Council meeting held in Savannah. He noted the proposed Bylaw changes discussed during the last Council meeting were voted on by the membership and approved.

Mr. Freeman then discussed the Georgia Accounting Food Fight and noted this program has grown the last few years. To date there have been \$807k contributions. Over the years of this program, canned and boxed food donations have diminished but the dollars donated have increased. A short video about the Food Flight played. James challenged the room to reach overall donations in 2020 to \$1 million.

Next, James gave an update on Member Summits. These grassroots effort around the state were very success and GSCPA Board is committee to continue to invest in this area.

In addition, James reminded everyone to support the PAC and announced the date for CPA Day as January 29.

Mr. Search went through legislative threats, some of which include licensure and public perceptions. Mr. Search shared slides to support this discussion. Don Cook reminded the room the current Governor was formally in charge of the regulation of professions and we are likely to see conversations about potential major changes to Occupational Licensing conversation in the coming years.

James Freeman then made a plug for Annual Convention in Maine which is June 13-16.

Mr. Freeman then discussed the Adopt a Base Program by making a call for volunteers. He noted there will be training for all those who volunteer and the program will take place one weekend a month in January, February, and March. Next year, he would like to roll this program out to other bases and other states.

Mr. Search discussed the recent pipeline trends related to human capital in the profession. He talked about retirements and hiring trends, and the increase in larger firms hiring more non CPAs. He then lead a discussion of CPA Evolution and exam changes.

**XIII. Treasurer's Report**

Tom Harrison presented the treasurer's report.

He discussed net income and noted there is an overall positive variance to budget. While overall net income is a positive variance, if one backs out investments there would be a negative variance to budgeted income. The biggest variance to note is in dues, primarily because we budget dues on a straight-line basis but are still receiving funds throughout the year.

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

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

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

Jodi Prevost, president of The Educational Foundation, mentioned the flyer about the upcoming golf tournament in the Council materials. This year's tournament will be held at Windermere Golf Club on May 11 in Cumming. She urged the room to become a sponsor or player. Mrs. Prevost also encouraged the room to donate to the Educational Foundation in any capacity. She then played The Foundation golf tournament video.

Finally, Jodi presented the 2019 Outstanding Educator Award to Dr. Robert Darville of Shorter University. After a video played, Dr. Darville said a few words of thanks.

Mrs. Prevost then adjourned the meeting of the member for The Educational Foundation.

*Reconvene the Council Meeting*

**XV. Nominating Committee Election Results**

Scott Collins presented the results from the Nominating Committee election.

The three newly elected members are Walt Bryde, Robert Fields, and Denise Smith.

The motion was made, seconded, and accepted to destroy the ballots.

**XVI. Insurance Trust Update**

Carlton Hodges gave the update. He encouraged those whom are enrolled in the trust and feel troubled by renewal increases, to reach out to Pritchard & Jerden. Next, Mr. Hodges noted that members routinely move in and move out of the trust as a method of premium creep management.

Finally, Mr. Hodges revealed the previous chair of that committee, John Forrestal, passed away recently. Carlton expressed his condolences to John's son, Jeff Forrestal.

**XVII. Open Forum**

Lee Ellen Fields, chair of the Annual Convention Task Force, announced the 2020 dates of June 13-16 and noted this is Saturday-Tuesday. Finally, she encouraged everyone to make hotel reservations now and announced registration will available at a later date.

**XVIII. Economic Outlook with Roger Tutterow**

Roger Tutterow presented an Economic Outlook for CPE credit.

**XIX. Adjourn**

Mr. Freeman thanked everyone for their time, and for being apart Leadership Council. The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boyd E. Search". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail.

Boyd E. Search, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer/Secretary