**The Georgia Society of CPAs
Spring Council Meeting
May 1, 2023
Westin Jekyll Island, Georgia**

**Minutes**

**Board of Directors Present:** Torie Barry, Crowell Baun, Kathryn Fletcher, Tom Harrison, Carlton Hodges, Chris Miller, Howard Mosby, Clay Pilgrim, Jodi Prevost, Evelyn Rosier, Debbie Thaw, Susan Tillery

**Past Presidents/Chairs Present:** Mike Cauley, Scott Collins, Kirk Jarrett, Paula Mooney, Lowell Mooney, Terry Parker, Bill Schneider, Darrell Thaw, Jim Underwood, Scott Voynich

**Member at Large Present:** Jason Blair, Valerie Bowron, Nick Bruner, Walt Bryde, Phillip Buelterman, Greg Chapman, Larry Cohen, Nina Diagle, Sarah Dekutowski, Bob Dow, Frank D’Urban Jackson, Laurie Dyke, Darla Eden, Denise Grove, Elizabeth Hardin, Bill Harshman, Taylor Hinson, John Holden, Clay Huffman, Mike Imber, Bo Jackson, Jake Jones, Jeff Kess, Amy King, Brian Klinkert, Steven Laine, Kevin Lipford, John Masters, Shawn McCall, Debbie McGlaun, Eric McGlothen, Beth Morrison, Larry Nichols, Denise O’Connell, Paul Oddo, Carl Peabody, Julie Petherbridge, Kevin Pope, Geoff Rhines, Nick Rider, Paula Sands, Rob Schwarzman, Randy Shrum, Geoff Smith, Dwight Sneathen, James Underwood, Margaret Waldrep, Ian Waller, James Warren, Amanda Wilkson, Jeff Wright

**Chapter Representatives Present:** Chelsea Ashcroft, Hannah Bentley, Jack Crawford, Donna McGinnis, Lori Norton, Marie Valdivia, Nicole Winston

**Staff Present:** Elizabeth Cook, Caryn Faulkner, Callie Hammond, Brandi Kornegay, Steve Olson, Boyd Search, Greg Wilder, Calvin Wong

1. **Call to Order**Debbie Thaw, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and invited everyone to stand for the National Anthem.
2. **Invocation**
Scott Voynich provided the invocation.
3. **Recognition of Past Presidents/Chairs**
Ms. Thaw recognized the past presidents and past chairs in attendance.
4. **Approval of Minutes**A motion was made and approved to accept the minutes with the corrections noted by Bill Schneider.
5. **Presentation of the Public Service Award**
Angela Dotson was honored as the 2023 Public Service Award recipient.
6. **Presentation of the Distinguished Member**

Nick Rider was honored as the 2023 Distinguished Member.

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

1. **Educational Foundation Report – Annual Meeting of the Members**

Maliece Whatley, president-elect of the Educational Foundation, provided the report. Ms. Whatley provided an update on scholarships. Ms. Whatley then honored Dwight Sneathen as the 2022 Outstanding Accounting Educator. Dr. Sneathen came forward to provide a few words.

Ms. Whatley then presented the slate of directors to be voted on during the annual meeting of the members: Chelsea Ashcroft, Jason Blair, Chris Lewis, Debra McGlaun, Tabitha Regan, Rob Schwarzman, and Randy Shrum.

A motion was made and approved to elect the directors of The Educational Foundation.

The proposed officers will be voted electronically after the annual meeting of the members: Maliece Whatley, president

Will Lazenby, president-elect

Phillip Buelterman, treasurer

Tim Veal, secretary

Ms. Whatley ended the Educational Foundation Annual Meeting of the Members by reminding the room of the upcoming Golf Tournament and the various ways to donate the Educational Foundation.

*Reconvene the Council Meeting*

1. **Chair’s/CEO Report**

Mr. Search and Ms. Thaw approached the podium for an update.

Ms. Thaw announced the passing of John Nix, former president of The Society.

Mr. Search then welcomed the room and began a tax legislature and policy update. He began with HB 109. Mr. Search then continued on with HB 412 with assistance from Nick Rider. Mr. Rider highlighted the importance of the relationship between GSCPA and the Department of Revenue. Mr. Rider stated that CPA Day at the Gold Dome is imperative as GSCPA is a resource for legislators. Ms. Thaw then followed up with her experience on the most recent changes. Don Cook, though not present, was thanked for his hard work. Mr. Search noted the thoughtfulness of our marketing and social media posts to note the changes and updates as they occur. Discussion ensued with several commentators such as Jim Underwood, James Underwood, and Clay Huffman, Chair of the State Board of Accountancy.

The next topic was the 2024 CPE standards changes. Once implemented, four hours of ethics will be required, and the sixteen hours of A&A will no longer be needed. There are additional new requirements that will also be enforced beginning in 2024.

Mr. Search continued the update on the changes to the CPA Exam window. A recent membership survey was highlighted. Mr. Search then provided a story about being at a State Board National (NASBA) conference with Paul Ziga. After much discussion, The Society recommended 36 months, while other states recommended 24 months. The final recommendation was a thirty-month window, though each state will have to adopt their own policy. Mr. Search will have more thoughts and comments after the Eastern Regional NASBA Conference later this month.

In 1983, Florida changed their testing requirement to 150 university hours. Lots of work went into this becoming a national standard. Scott Voynich was acknowledged. Mr. Search referenced the membership survey noted earlier in the report. There was much discussion around the room with several members highlighted such as Larry Cohen, Nicole Winston, Bill Schneider, Scott Voynich, James Underwood, Dwight Sneathen, Jeff Wright, and Jack Jones. Ms. Thaw highlighted the need for more definition of what classes are acceptable. Mr. Search wrapped up the discussion by saying The Society will be evaluating information and having extensive discussion at the Board level to create an official response and plan to move forward.

In full transparency, Mr. Search emphasized the challenges from a financial perspective of Operations, CPE, and Budget. The Society is under a hiring freeze and remains on solid financial ground. GSCPA has resourced to create opportunity in CPE, especially with 2023 being a reporting year. We remain optimistic.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Kathryn Fletcher presented the treasurer’s report. Ms. Fletcher noted the current financials are showing information for a ten-month period as we are nearing the end of the fiscal year. She then discussed CPE, highlighting 2022 as a non-reporting year. More discussion on CPE will follow in the budget presentation. Ms. Fletcher’s final note on CPE was attendance. Next, the area of membership dues was discussed, beginning with the improvement of the current loss in this area. Dues are staying consistent with budgeted areas. The membership team made phone calls to those with an outstanding balance before the new fiscal year begins. Peer review and administrative expenses were also noted. Financial, Ms. Fletcher encouraged all to donate to the PAC. There were no questions or comments.

Treasurer’s report was received.

1. **Ratification of the Budget**

Ms. Fletcher began by recognizing the members who served on the Budget Committee. She also discussed the process of creating and approving the budget. Ms. Fletcher noted the six strategic principles. She then introduced Greg Wilder, GSCPA COO, to present the budget. Mr. Wilder began by discussing operational challenges linked to the pandemic in the last year.

Mr. Search provided details on the Reserve Analysis. GSCPA bases numbers of what is projected for the next fiscal year and what is predicted for this fiscal year.

Mr. Wilder then discussed the budget trending report. This report contains five years’ worth of data covering budgeted changes and actual changes. Budget summary: investments in members and technology, CPE offering based on post-pandemic sales and member surveys, increases in dues and CPE rates, change in net assets before other revenue. The change in net assets is -$322,000.

Mr Wilder noted the Operating Budget for CPE. Budgeting CPE margin is $75,000 higher than budgeted in FY23 (non-reporting year) and $20,000 more than the actual CPE marking in FY22 (reporting year). FY24 Budgeted Net CPE margin includes reporting year projections. Increased costs continue to be a major story line. Mr. Wilder discussed the membership survey highlighting the questions on preferred method of CPE instruction. He also provided a breakdown of CPE product lines (seminars, conferences, and products). Discussion occurred around the room.

The current office space lease is up 2025. While it is unclear what the future holds, there will be significant savings once this lease expires. Mr. Search wants to reduce square footage in any future office space.

Mr. Wilder highlighted the Operating Budget for dues. Staff is recommending $15 dues increase for both Fellows and Associates. He also provided a dues rate history for four years.

The Misc. Revenues was next on the agenda and was explained. Afterward, he noted several expenses including chapter funding, communities, Current Accounts, dues retention and recruitment, lobbying, and travel, development, and networking for staff. Next, Mr. Wilder noted “other committees” and what this line item includes.

Then, Mr. Wilder provided information on the Administrative Budget – salary increases, health insurance, and technology.

Ms. Fletcher provided a Cash Flow Analysis.

A motion was made and approved to ratify the budget.

1. **Ethics Presentation**

Alfonzo Alexander provided an ethics update.

1. **Appointment of Audit Committee Member**

Mrs. Thaw recommended the appointment of Nick Bruner to serve on the Audit Committee. The ayes are in favor of the appointment of Nick Bruner.

1. **Nominating Committee Report**
Tom Harrison, chair of the Nominating Committee, shared the nominating committee report. A motion was made and approved to elect Kathryn Fletcher, Cromwell Baun, and James Underwood to the AICPA Council Delegation. A list of the Council Members-at-Large, Board of Directors and new Chairman was given to the Council in their meeting packets. These positions will be voted on during the Annual Business Meeting. Mr. Harrison asked if there were any objections to the nominations. The Council received the Nominating Committee Report.
2. **Insurance Trust Update**

Carlton Hodges presented the report.

1. **Open Forum**

Nick Bruner provided an update on the 2023 Annual Convention in Alaska and announced the 2024 Convention in St. Augustine.

Debbie Thaw thanked staff. Ms. Thaw recognized Mr. Search’s twelfth year at The Society.

1. **Adjourn**Ms. Thaw thanked everyone for their time, and for being a part of Leadership Council. The meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Boyd E. Search, CAE
Chief Executive Officer/Secretary