

**The Georgia Society of CPAs  
Fall Council Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2025  
Brasstown Valley Resort  
Young Harris, Georgia**

**Board of Directors Present:** Cromwell Baun, Jason Blair, Kathryn Fletcher, Jason Perry, Clay Pilgrim, Jodi Prevost, Geoff Rhines, Boyd Search, Susan Tillery, Jon Tomberlin, James Underwood, Ian Waller

**Members at Large Present:**

|                         |                          |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Julia Babington         | Marjorie Huckabee-Carter | Evelyn Rosier      |
| Robin Bennett           | David Jackson            | Paula Sands        |
| Denille Bidy            | Frank Jones              | Randall Shrum      |
| Jordan Birdsong         | Thomas Jones             | Dwight Sneathen    |
| Aileen Bolger           | Amy King                 | Joli Stuckey       |
| Valerie Bowron          | Brian Klinkert           | Joetta Thomas      |
| Nicholas Bruner         | Ralph Knight             | Jonathan Tomberlin |
| Walton Bryde            | Kendra LaFleur           | David Ussery       |
| Leslie Buice            | Will Lazenby             | Margaret Waldrep   |
| Olga Camp               | John Masters             | Maliece Whatley    |
| John Carson             | Shawntell McCall         | Amanda Wilkson     |
| Gregory Chapman         | Eric McGlothen           | Nicole Winston     |
| Matthew Clark           | Erin McLeod              | Jeffrey Wright     |
| Lawrence Cohen          | William Merritt          |                    |
| Christopher Conrad      | Martha Merritt           |                    |
| Kelly Cranford          | Douglas Moses            |                    |
| Abriel Davis            | Jacqueline Neubert       |                    |
| Robert Dow              | Denise O'Connell         |                    |
| Karen Drescher          | Paul Oddo                |                    |
| Francis D'urban Jackson | Sara Ogden               |                    |
| David Golden            | Joel Pascaner            |                    |
| Denise Grove            | Katelan Price            |                    |
| Elizabeth Hardin        | Katherine Proctor        |                    |
| William Harris          | Burnard Pull             |                    |

**Chapter Presidents/Reps Present:** Christina Page, Brooklin Walk, David Zabala Torres

**Past Presidents/Chairs Present:** Colin Blalock, Scott Collins, Carlton Hodges, Lowell Mooney, Paula Mooney, Terry Parker, Bill Schneider, Darrell Thaw, Debbie Thaw, Scott Voynich

**Staff Present:** Don Cook, Elizabeth Cook, Caryn Faulkner, Callie Hammond, Brandi Kornegay, Jennifer Maddox, Calvin Wong

**I. Call to Order**

James Underwood, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Quorum has been established.

**II. Invocation**

Carlton Hodges 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 2025 Spring Leadership Council meeting minutes were accepted.

**V. Special Election**

A motion was presented by Carlton Hodges on behalf of the Nominating Committee to elect Jason Perry to the open GSCPA Board Director position.

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

Boyd Search, GSCPA CEO, and James Underwood, GSCPA Chair, began with a glance at the year.

Appreciation was given for the passage of the Pathways bill, with implementation now continuing through rules-making. The team also acknowledged a demanding year marked by legislative and policy changes, an office move, staffing transitions, and market pressures impacting areas such as CPE and membership.

An educator panel was previewed that will discuss how colleges and universities are adapting to HB148 and evolving pathways into the profession. The need for continued collaboration through GSCPA between academia and the profession was emphasized.

The HB148 rules-making process and broader deregulation efforts were discussed. Members were encouraged to remain engaged through PAC support and events such as Clays & CPAs on November 20 in Waleska, GA.

Rising Professionals was highlighted as a pipeline initiative targeting high school students in partnership with Atlanta Public Schools, including a competitive workshop hosted in the Forvis Mazars building on October 24, 2025. Funding and volunteer support were encouraged.

James shared record results from the Georgia Accounting Food Fight, with 7,642 participants raising \$380,072 in 2025 and nearly \$2.93 million since 2014.

Finally, Boyd outlined key industry pressures: implementation of new pathways and skills gaps, potential deregulation, growth of private equity in accounting, and concerns around use and perception of the CPA credential, all within a broader focus on maintaining public trust and regulatory balance.

**VII. Educator Panel**

Ellen Best (University of North Georgia), Margaret Christ (University of Georgia), Peter Demerjian (Georgia State University), Brad Schafer (Kennesaw State University), and Dwight Sneathen

(Georgia Southern University) participated in an Educator Panel moderated by Elizabeth Cook.

**VIII. Clay Pilgrim Treasurer's Report**

Clay Pilgrim began the report noting the financials are in each packet to be reviewed. Mr. Pilgrim noted several items such as dues, CPE, and investments. Discussion was held around the room. Jessica Mytrohovich and Boyd Search assisted with answering questions and provided additional information.

Members received the treasurer's report as presented.

**IX. Audit Committee Report**

Karen Drescher gave the report. Aprio has no reportable issues with either The Society or Educational Foundation. Hancock Askew has not completed the Insurance Trust audit, but no reportable issues are to be expected.

Mr. Underwood thanked the committee and presented a gift to Ms. Drescher for her leadership.

**X. Appointment of Audit Committee Member**

Mr. Underwood recommended the appointment of Denise O'Connell to serve on the Audit Committee. The ayes are in favor of the appointment of Denise O'Connell.

*Council Meeting was recessed for the Educational Foundation Meeting*

**XI. Educational Foundation**

Will Lazenby encouraged all to donate to the Educational Foundation. Mr. Lazenby announced the opening of the scholarship application as of November 1 and she encouraged educators to promote scholarships to students. Paula Mooney, the 2025 Outstanding Accounting Educator, was honored the day before at the Foundation Board meeting. Next, Mr. Lazenby announced the Golf Tournament on May 11 at Eagle Watch Golf Club. Finally, he thanked everyone for their support.

*Reconvene the Council Meeting*

**XII. Nominating Committee Election Results**

Kathryn Fletcher, 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. Ms. Fletcher then presented the results from the Nominating Committee election. The three newly elected members are Kyle Aldridge, Summer Bell, and Christina Page.

**XIII. Meritorious Service Award Presentation**

Art Auerbach was presented the Meritorious Service Award.

**XIV. AICPA Council Report**

Cromwell Baun presented the report providing an updated on AICPA.

**XV. Open Forum**

Cromwell Baun announced Annual Convention 2026 to be held in Lake Louise, Canada.

**XVI. Adjourn**

Mr. Underwood adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.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.

Boyd E. Search, CAE

Chief Executive Officer/Secretary