

**The Georgia Society of CPAs  
Fall Council Meeting  
November 6, 2023  
Legacy Lodge  
Lake Lanier, Georgia Minutes**

**Board of Directors Present:** Kathryn Fletcher, Carlton Hodges, Clay Pilgrim, Nick Rider, Boyd Search, Debbie Thaw, Susan Tillery, James Underwood, Ian Waller

**Members at Large Present:** Julia Babington, Cromwell Baun, Robin Bennett, Denille Bidy, William Birmingham, Jason Blair, Valerie Bowron, Dan Branch, Nick Bruner, Olga Camp, Ross Cannon, Greg Chapman, Larry Cohen, Abriel Davis, Sarah Dekutowski, Bob Dow, Karen Drescher, Lee Ellen Fields, Jeffrey Forrestall, Dennis Gallant, David Golden, Denise Grove, Elizabeth Hardin, Bob Heuel, Patrick Hill, Taylor Hinson, John Holden, Cathi Houston, Clay Huffman, Mike Imber, Bo Jackson, Jake Jones, Jeff Kess, Amy King, Brian Klinkert, Steven Laine, Kevn Lipford, Mich Lopata, Shawn McCall, Debbie McGlaun, Eric McGlothen, Charlie Merritt, Martha Merritt, Will Merritt, Anne Morris, Doug Moses, Denise O'Connell, Joel Pascaner, Julie Petherbridge, Brad Reeder, Geoff Rhines, Theresa Scales, Dwight Sneathen, Joli Stuckey, Joetta Thomas, Tim Veal, Brandon Verner, Margaret Waldrep, James Warren, Cecily Welch, Maliece Whatley, David Wilkerson, Jeff Wright

**Chapter Presidents/Reps Present:** Amber Hudson, Jennifer Veal, Stephen Voynich

**Past Presidents/Chairs Present:** Mike Cauley, Scott Collins, Tom Harrison, Terry Parker, Carolyn Riticher, Bill Schneider, Darrell Thaw, Jim Underwood, Scott Voynich

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

**I. Call to Order**

Carlton Hodges, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Quorum has been established.

**II. Invocation**

Jim Underwood provided the invocation.

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

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

**IV. Recognition of VIPs**

Clay Huffman and David Wilkerson were recognized.

**V. Recognition of Veterans**

Veterans were asked to stand and were honored.

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

The 2023 Spring Leadership Council meeting minutes were accepted as presented.

*Council Meeting was recessed for the Educational Foundation Meeting*

**VII. Educational Foundation**

Maliece Whatley encouraged all to donate to the Educational Foundation. Ms. Whatley announced the opening of the scholarship application as of November 1 and she encouraged educators to promote scholarships to students. Brad Schaffer, the 2023 Outstanding Accounting Educator, and Ian Waller, the 2023 Howard Herman Award Winner, were both honored the day before at the Foundation Board meeting. She congratulated them both. Next, Ms. Whatley announced the Golf Tournament on May 6 at Eagle Watch Golf Club. Finally, she thanked everyone for their support.

*Reconvene the Council Meeting*

**VIII. Presentation of the Outstanding Member in Industry Award**

Don Bravaldo was honored as the 2023 Outstanding Member in Industry.

**IX. AICPA Council Report**

Kathryn Fletcher presented the report. The AICPA Fall Council Meeting was held in mid-October in California with the attendance of GSCPA representatives. Ms. Fletcher highlighted several items from the meeting like Quality Control, CPA Evolution, the CPA exam, Legislation, AI, and resources for the CPA Exam changes.

**X. Insurance Trust Update**

Carlton Hodges gave the update. He promoted the trust and asked those of interested or concerns to reach out to him and Sterling Seacrest Pritchard.

**XI. Treasurer's Report**

James Underwood began the report noting the financials are in each packet to be reviewed. Mr. Underwood noted several items such as CPE, membership, and the operating budget. He then

noted the audit is complete and the tax return is in process.

Members received the treasurer's report as presented.

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

Boyd Search, GSCPA CEO, and Carlton Hodges, GSCPA Chair, were spotlighted as speakers.

Mr. Search started the report by thanking all of the volunteers and congratulating the 2023 award winners.

The Georgia Accounting Food Fight was next on the agenda. The 2023 event raised over \$347,000 and almost \$2.2 million has been donated since 2014.

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

Don Cook added to the report providing a legislative update. Nick Rider, Jeff Kess, Carolyn Riticher, and David Wilkerson were among those who added to this report. Mr. Search expressed his gratitude for our CPA Legislators.

Mr. Search and Mr. Hodges promoted discussion on Peer Review, Pipeline, Mobility, and Evolution in Education. The importance of storytelling and lifting of salaries was emphasized. Brad Schafer and Dwight Sneathen provided commentary as part of this discussion.

CPE is a direct impact on space planning as the current office lease is set to expire soon. Bill Schneider and Jim Underwood added to the CPE discussion.

Finally, the recently attended AI conference was reviewed.

## **XIII. Nominating Committee Election Results**

Debbie Thaw, 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. Thaw then presented the results from the Nominating Committee election. The three newly elected members are Denise O'Connell, Steven Voynich, and Bo Wright.

## **XIV. Audit Committee Report**

Brad Reeder gave the report. Aprio has no reportable issues with either The Society or Educational Foundation.

Mr. Hodges thanked Mr. Reeder for his work.

## **XV. Appointment of Audit Committee Member**

Mr. Hodges recommended the appointment of Terry Parker to serve on the Audit Committee. The ayes are in favor of the appointment of Terry Parker.

**XVI. AI Speaker**

Chris Jenkins, CEO of the South Carolina Association of CPAs, provided a presentation on AI.

**XVII. Open Forum**

Cromwell Baun announced the room block is officially open for Annual Convention 2024 at the Embassy Suites in St. Augustine, Florida.

**XVIII. Adjourn**

Mr. Hodges thanked everyone for their time, and for being a part of Leadership Council. The meeting adjourned at 12:26 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 letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Boyd E. Search, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer/Secretary