GVATA Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Attending: Attending: Stacey Beacham, Todd Dobson, Hannah Elrick, Greg Waits, Kedrione Harris, Melissa Riley, Justin Bennett, Nelson McCracken, Audrey Davis, Pete Bennett, Richard Gill, Chip Bridges, Ben Lastly and Constance Reid.

1. President Greg Waits called the meeting to order at 10:01AM
2. Past President Stacey Beacham gave the invocation.
3. Melissa Riley presented the minutes of the September executive session. Audrey Davis moved to approve, seconded by Hannah Elrick. Minutes were approved.

4. Riley gave both the financial report and membership report. Both of the GVATA BankSouth Accounts opened by previous exec sec Josh Allen have now been closed. Riley has checks and will be depositing those into current account soon. Riley with the help of a CPA has redone the layout of the financial report to make it easier for everyone to understand. Riley explained the breakdown of the new report. Waits moved to approve both as presented. Hannah Elrick seconded. Both reports passed.

5. Kedrione Harris gave a GACTE update. Mr. Harris stated GACTE had a conference call meeting on Jan 7th. He reported that the 2017 GACTE conference will be in Atlanta July 9-12, 2017. Georgia will also be the host of the ACTE Region II Conference, the Conference will be held on Jekyll Island Sept 28th – Oct 1st.

6. Spring Newsletter will be due March 24th to Melissa Riley. Area Directors 2, 4, and 6 as well as GACTE, President, and President Elect will need to provide articles for newsletter.

7. Waits gave NAAE Conference Report from NAAE Conference that took place in Las Vegas November 29-Dec 3rd. Waits stated we need members from Region V to serve on NAAE committees. Waits asked Nelson McCracken to share his view as this was his first national conference. McCracken was surprised not more people representing GVATA and that we didn’t have enough voting delegates to represent Georgia. Discussion amongst board about how cannot depend on award winners because NAAE books and pays for their travel; they cannot always stay to vote. P. Bennett suggested talking to NAAE about paying different to allow award winners to stay for voting. Beacham recommended it was time to put motion back on floor to send entire board to ensure enough voting delegates. Richard Gill said he believed that was already a constitutional amendment that passed in 2015. Beacham said motion went to vote but vote failed. Gill said it then went to committee and he was chair of committee and wrote the new amendment and that committee motion passed. Riley is going to check into this and report back to the board.

8. Mr. Bridges have state staff report. He appreciates the leadership of the board and has hopes to send two members of the leadership team to attend NAAE Convention. He informed board that the 2017-18 State Calendar is complete. He said his main concern at the moment is End of Pathway Assessments (EOPA). He informed everyone that Dr. Wall has hired SREB to evaluate all EOPA for CTAE. He plans to present troubles with EOPA at the state staff report during evening opening session. Mr. Bridges reminded board how blessed we are in Georgia to have such outstanding support. Chief Financial Officer at DOE pulled the budget clean up from being presented to state board but Chairman of Appropriations Committee resolved the issue for us. Mr. Bridges is thankful for the tremendous support from legislators, businesses, and individuals that support GA Ag Education.

9. Dr. Rubenstein came early to present his new business because he had another meeting to attend later that day. He informed the board that he would like to host a camp to promote ag education. Camp would be held at UGA for 20-25 upcoming seniors in the summer to teach them about the ag ed profession. Rubenstein would like to have an Ag Ed Signing Day for all 3 colleges. There would be an application process and committee would select best students for camp. Goal of camp is to help reach demand of ag teachers in Georgia. Current cost would be around $300 per student for week, would like to reduce to $75-100 per student. Rubenstein asked board permission to add a line to GVATA membership application to take up teacher donations for the program.

10. Mid-Winter Conference Overview - Riley went over registration process with directors. Everyone now has their own square reader to take credit card payments. Constance gave overview of breakouts. Melissa passed out tactical planning committee assignments to each of the directors.

11. Summer Conference Overview – Waits reminded board that summer conference would be July 9-12 in Savannah. The Board Meeting is set for Sunday, July 9th at 3:00PM. Greg reminded area directors of their responsibilities. Board discussed member thank you gift, Beacham said that Wear House would be happy to create for us again. Riley presented meal options that were sent in from the Marriott. P. Bennett moved to go with a plated meal to save money. Beacham seconded. A. Davis is going to create a vendor packet for all vendors. Pete wants to set up break out tours off site. Constance and Audrey are going to work together on securing donations for award donations.

12. Region V Conference will be June 26-28th in Tupelo, MS. Area directors eligible to go are 1, 4, and 6. Riley will secure rooms for everyone attending and everyone is driving.

13. Each area director will be responsible for securing award applications for their area. Award Applications are due to Area Directors on April 15th. Audrey plans to look into state awards that we currently do not fill out and see if Georgia has anyone we could recommend.

14. Mr. Todd Dobson gave PRC report. There will be a PRC meeting later today at 2:00pm to discuss priorities of the committee. Governor put 2% into teacher salaries. Georgia has also had applications for 14 new programs, 6 Young Farmer Programs. We are currently $185,000 short of catching everyone up with extended day/ extended year pay with new raise. $124,000 short employer portion of TRS, $140,000 short for new programs, $300,000 short for 3 new area teachers, $450,000 short for 6 new young farmer programs, and $100,000 short to fund industry certification. Need 1.3 million dollars to fund everything mentioned. Mr. McKie will be here tomorrow to talk with group.

15. Greg moved to postpone meeting till 8:30AM, Wednesday, Jan 18th. Audrey seconded. Meeting will continue in the morning.

16. Greg waits called meeting to order at 8:30AM

17. Greg called attention to old business of $25,000 donation to GA FFA Foundation. Riley referred everyone to the financial sheet. Of the 6 sub account on the budget, our conference account is the only account with $25,000 in it. Committee member has previously asked Riley to talk to CPA about possibilities of any legal ramifications of donating money. Riley reported findings to the board that if we use money that is designated for a specific cause (such as conference funds) for another use without the permission of the members if GVATA is audited could lose 501c3 nonprofit status. Riley stated last year summer conference cost almost $40,000 and only brought in slightly over $30,000. Board had open discussion about donation. Beacham moved to resend the previous motion to donate $25,000 to the foundation. P. Bennett seconded the motion and stated just not something the board is comfortable with at this time. Nelson motioned to create a line item on the membership form to start collecting donations for an endowment. Davis Seconded. Motion passes.

Beacham moved to create a sub category for the foundation, moving $3,000 from the conference account to create a line item to start teacher donations towards the $25,000 endowment. Reid seconded. Open discussion by the board, Constance brought up flower fund money already goes directly towards the foundation. Riley brought up most conference fees are paid by school systems not individual members. Davis discussed taking vendor money and not using school checks to start the $3,000 fund. Pete said need to talk with teachers first. Beacham calls for the question. Motion failed. Board will revisit at another time.

18. Gala will be March 10th – 1oth on the 10th – Riley said table has already been purchased and 10 seats available – Constance & husband, Pete & wife, Greg & wife, Nelson & wife, Melissa, and Audrey plan to attend.

19, Open Board Member Terms – Board seats 2, 3, and 5 are up for elections. Elections will take place tomorrow during region meetings.

20. President elect, currently have no applications.

21. Riley looked into the constitutional amendment the board asked about yesterday, with confirmation from previous exec secretary read the correct wording for Article 6, Section 4. Riley will update constitution with correct wording and will upload to website soon.

22. Next Board Meeting will be Saturday, April 22nd at Camp John Hope.

23. Constance moved to adjourno the meeting at 9:46AM. Hannah seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Melissa Riley

GVATA Executive Secretary