

**GCCMA Board of Directors' Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 @ 10:30a.m.  
Athens, Georgia  
Classic Center

**Attending:**

President Scott Johnson – Columbia County  
Vice-President Blaine Williams – Athens-Clarke County  
Secretary/Treasurer Marcia Hampton – Douglasville  
District Director Sammy Rich – Rome  
District Director Al Lawson – Swainsboro  
District Director Chris Hobby – Bainbridge  
District Director Sonja Fillingame – Union City  
District Director Adam Mestres – Morgan County  
Erica Powell Grier – Business Manager  
Mara Shaw – Program Planning Manager  
Randy Reid (ICMA)  
Ed Driggers (ICMA).

**Absent:**

Director at Large John McDonough – Sandy Springs  
District Director Joey Brown – Liberty County

Vice President Blaine Williams called the meeting to order as President Scott Johnson was a few minutes late. Vice President Williams thanked everyone for attending and then asked that the board take a few minutes to review the minutes from the fall conference. Hearing no discussion, he asked for a motion to approve. A motion was made by Sammy Rich of Rome, a second was made by Al Lawson and the minutes were subsequently approved by unanimous vote of all the members present.

Following the approval of the minutes, Williams mentioned that the GCCMA Board had a productive retreat in February and following previous discussions secured a fund balance policy plan to invest \$100k. The executive committee reached out to local banks to inquire about investment rates to secure the highest return.

Williams then stated that creating a strategic plan is a priority of his during his time as president of GCCMA. With the help of Kimberly Greer, Williams created a member survey to distribute in the membership meeting to gather feedback on member priorities. Once the survey is completed, CVIOG will document results to move forward with the strategic plan. This process will help GCCMA become more formal and intentional in their business.

Randy Reid stated that strategic plans help provide direction to organizations that are already stable.

Next, Williams called on Marcia Hampton to provide a 2018 financial report. Hampton reported the \$70k increase from year 2017 to 2018 financials and briefly discussed how this justified the \$100k investment that has been discussed at previous board meeting.

Following the financial report, President Johnson then went through a few issues that he wanted to discuss with the Board. The first, was on the fund balance policy. He reported that the association would move forward with the \$100k investment into CD's at East West Bank and that Marcia Hampton had secured a 2.55% rate for 12 month CD's. Marcia explained that

extending past 12 months would not make a difference and the 12 month time frame would be the length of the investment. Marcia Hampton, Erica Powell Grier (business manager), Donna Jones (GMA Accounting) and Misa Nguyen (GMA Accounting) will be authorized signers for this investment. President Johnson then asks for a motion to approve the investment. Vice President Blaine Williams makes a motion to approve, Sonja Fillingame seconds the motion and the present Board members unanimously approve the motion to invest \$100,000.00 in 12 month CDs.

The second President's topic was to pass the ICMA program planning committee member nomination to Blaine Williams to appoint. This is to be determined at a later date.

The third topic pertained to changing the GCCMA by-laws on the nominating process for the Board of Directors. Johnson asks if this should be mentioned to the membership and the consensus of the Board was that it should be mentioned and that the bylaws will be updated accordingly and voted on at the November business meeting.

Ed Driggers (District VP) provided Board with an ICMA report.

- Encouraged marketing of the Annual ICMA Conference in Nashville, TN.
- Noted that ICMA continues the conversation about the importance of diversity and inclusion and stated that the SE region is a leader in this effort. He also mentioned that diversity includes job title so the association can meet the needs of its members.
- The 2019 Coaching program is available and offers 6 new webinars at no cost to local governments in Georgia.

Randy Reid made several ICMA related comments as follows:

- Georgia needs to appoint a Program Planning member for the ICMA Annual Conference.
- Joint membership drive. Georgia is up for this effort and if GCCMA is not ready to commit, Alabama is waiting in line.
- ICMA has a new program: "Veterans Fellowship Program" which is funded by the Department of Defense.

Scott Johnson noted that GCCMA concerns regarding ICMA would be submitted in writing as ICMA has requested.

Randy Reid mentioned using Michael Kaigler as a voice for GCCMA on the ICMA Board.

Mara Shaw provided a report on behalf of CVIOG and about the GCCMA Retreat. Shaw gave the final Board Retreat report and information which was included in Board packets.

- Shaw reported that Kenya Rutland would be coming back for a session at the fall conference.
- CVIOG will host a design team during the summer to create a new manager onboarding training and implement this at future conferences.
- The CPM program offered by UGA will now count towards hours for UGA's MPA program as well as hours towards ICMA's Credentialed Manager program.
  - It will be evaluated on whether CPM courses can be offered at future GCCMA conferences (before, after or during the conference).

Following the ICMA and CVIOG report, the representatives from those organizations excused themselves so GCCMA could conduct the association business.

Scott Johnson then announced that the following was the slate of officers recommended by the 2019-2020 nominating committee.

President: Blaine Williams, Athens/Clarke County

Vice President: Marcia Hampton, Douglasville

Secretary/Treasurer: Chris Hobby, Bainbridge

Director-at-Large: Scott Johnson, Columbia County

District Directors

NW: Sammy Rich, Rome

NE: Adam Mestres, Morgan County

Metro: Sonja Fillingame, Union City

Central/Heartland: Al Lawson, Swainsboro

SW: Sharon Subadan, Albany

SE/Coastal: Joey Brown, Liberty County

A motion was made to accept the slate as offered, a second was made and the motion carried unanimously.

President Johnson then started the discussion of the issues GCCMA has with ICMA. There is a need to bring the issues to the membership and open the floor for discussion.

A list of issues was made to present to the membership:

1. Cost of dues
  - a. What is the value of membership?
2. Florida wants to add more Board seats to the SE Region.
  - a. Does Georgia support this effort?
3. Does GCCMA want to participate in the ICMA membership drive?
  - a. Can our members afford ICMA?
  - b. If the Board cannot fully explain the value of ICMA, why would it push ICMA membership in a joint membership drive?
4. What is the value of the membership and are we excluding majority of Georgia communities that cannot afford ICMA dues?

President Johnson then asked if there was any other business, hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.