

GCCMA Spring Business Meeting, Classic Center, Grand Hall 2-4, Athens-Clarke County

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 4:00 PM

GCCMA President Chris Hobby called the meeting to order.

President's Report- President Hobby recapped the board retreat held in Thomasville and explained the action from the retreat would be before the entire organization for action.

Executive Director's Report- Executive Director Peggy Merriss announced conference attendance had exceeded the fall conference in Jekyll by two people and the organization had added forty new members. Ms. Merriss indicated the organization's response for serving on committees was excellent with over thirty responses to serve on various committees. The new manager cohort has continued to meet with a very favorable response from participants.

Fall Meeting Minutes—Upon a motion by Alan Ours and seconded by Scott Johnson, the minutes from the 2022 fall meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Review of Year-End 2022 Financials – Ms. Merriss gave an update on the organization's financials and reported we ended 2022 in very good financial health and had increased fund balance by approximately \$23,000 which gave the organization approximately \$440,000 in undesignated fund balance.

2023-2025 Dues Schedule- Ms. Merriss gave an overview of the refined membership categories and dues amounts that included a scheduled 3-year rate increase of \$75 per year from the 2022 rate of \$125 to \$350 per year by 2025. Ms. Merriss also explained the 2023 budget had included anticipated revenues from the new dues schedule.

There were questions from the membership concerning organization fund balance and concern was expressed that affiliate members may not have the same benefits as a full member. Other members indicated an increase in membership dues would help fund better conference speakers and that affiliate members not being eligible to serve on the board as compared to full members was deliberate.

Ms. Merriss explained the goal was to not grow the fund balance but to increase the value of the organization by better branding, better educational opportunities and programming delivery.

Immediate Past-President Marcia Hampton spoke on behalf of the board and explained part of history of the organization such as membership dues had not been raised in over twenty years. Additionally, Ms. Hampton explained the organization fund balance was not due to accumulation of membership dues but to a large fundraising effort that associated with GCCMA's attempt to host an ICMA conference.

Upon a motion by Carter Crawford, seconded by Billy Peppers, the dues increase measure was approved by a majority vote of the membership.

CVIOG Report– Rob Gordon gave an update on the activities of the institute and thanked GCCMA for the continued partnership with CVIOG. Hardin Watkins reported there would be a data conference held on April 26-27th. Additionally, the Certified Manager Program was open and accepting candidates.

ICMA Report – Randy Reid reported he was pleased to be attending his 8th GCCMA conference. Mr. Reid reported that ICMA had been working to modernize the organization and had pending updates to four of the 12 ICMA tenets: 1,4,9 and 11 and there was a major emphasis for more diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Mr. Reid reported that ICMA had recently lowered membership dues by 14% with a maximum membership capped at \$1,200. The reduced membership rate would provide an even greater discount of 20% to smaller cities that had a general fund of less than \$7.8M, and population less than 7,500.

Mr. Reid also reported the former ICMA Regional conferences had transitioned into Local Government Reimagined and offered special training by theme.

Lastly, Mr. Reid discussed the new ICMA Governance Plan that would be coming soon and 2025 would be the last year under the current governance structure. Mr. Reid suggested it would be a great time for GCCMA to present a candidate to serve on the ICMA board. Lastly, Mr. Reid provided an update on the Equilibrium Program that all ICMA members were eligible to take advantage of that would connect members with an online resource to provide counseling and assistance with any struggles you may be facing.

ICMA 2023 Conference Report- Kimberly Greer provided an update on the 2023 ICMA conference to be held in Austin Texas at the Austin Convention Center from Saturday September 30 through Wednesday October 4, 2023. Ms. Greer explained the Georgia dinner would be held on Monday evening with the venue announced in the near future.

Adjournment- Upon a motion by Mr. Bryan Lackey and seconded by Mr. Cleatus Phillips, the spring business meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted- Sammy Rich, Secretary/Treasurer