 

**Executive Committee Conference Call**May 13, 2021

1. **Jamal called the meeting to order at 10:03 am and gave a safety briefing. Attendees on the call were:**

Jamal Jessie (GA Power) Rosa Schmidt (CEWD) Sheri Braddick (Electric Cities of GA)
Lindsay Silveus (Project Manager) Marilyn Walker (GA Power) Sabrina Milner (Electric Cities of GA)

Nichole Miles-Sullivan (AGL) Corey Hines (AGL) Kenny Holiday (Southern Company)

Ashley Varnador (Pike) Angie Farsee (GTC) Gregg Webb (Aubry Silvey)

Saundra King (TCSG) Diane McClearen (Oglethorpe) Todd Day (Diversified Utilities)

Rita Wilson (GreyStone)

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**
	1. Jamal had one small change to the meeting minutes. No other changes requested.
2. **Treasurer’s Report**
	1. Angie went through the check detail and noted that most of the checks outside of regular operating expenses were from the golf tournament – both the December tournament and the upcoming one.
	2. All dues have been paid and Angie received an additional outstanding payment for the golf tournament today so YTD deposits are around $52,000.
	3. The Quickbook balance is $181,473 and the BB&T balance is $182,473 as there is a $1,000 outstanding check to the Georgia Club for the golf tournament deposit.
	4. Jamal said he notices the PayPal fees adding up and asked if there is another way we could approach receiving payments. Angie said that GEICC used to require checks for payment, but a lot of companies are moving away from checks. She sees it as a cost of doing business. Angie also noted that due to COVID GEICC has cut down on a lot of golf tournament expenses so there is an offset. Diane noted that GEICC has used Square as well, especially on the day of the tournament, but they are trying not to take any payments that day. She sees Paypal as a cost of doing business and is a consistent way of accepting payment.
3. **Golf tournament**
	1. Diane said that there are 136 golfers registered. The Georgia Club is allowing GEICC to use all three 9 holes at no cost even though GEICC failed to meet the minimum of 144 golfers. Diane is projecting this to be a record fundraising year because of an additional platinum sponsor, Artera, who will be recognized at the event as SEC and Hydro X. She is anticipating a net gain of $32,000.
	2. Mitch Hardy of Pike will give the opening remarks and an invitation for the membership meeting will be in each golfer bag.
4. **Scholarship**
	1. Marilyn has taken over leadership of the scholarship committee as Mary has resigned from Oglethorpe and GEICC.
	2. Applications for the scholarship closed on March 31st with 650 applications. An expanded scholarship committee narrowed it down to a final 20 students. The task now is to determine how to select the winners or elect to give scholarships to all 20 students. It was also suggested that the winners are presented on the membership meeting in June. Jamal would like to see the winners showcased on social media. He is recommending the scholarship committee to meet next week to finalize the winners. Angie and Diane noted that the students need to be notified ASAP before they are out of school for the summer.
5. **Membership meeting**
	1. Meeting will be held via Zoom Webinar on June 17th. The agenda will have opening remarks and updates from Jamal, Missy Hendrickson of CEWD, Rebecca McIver of Carl Vinson Institute of Government Affairs on Workforce Development Strategies, and Saundra King, Technical College System of GA, discussing the Electrical Lineworkers Program updates.
	2. Jamal asked that when the meeting invitation is sent out to share with colleagues who may wish to attend. Diane is asking her colleague to update the invitation ASAP and she will send it to Lindsay for distribution as soon as it is ready.
6. **Additional funding opportunities**
	1. Jamal suggested that GEICC investigate additional opportunities to spend money outside of scholarships. There is a significant amount of cash available in the bank and that money would be best served in the communities for workforce development, education, and career awareness.
	2. Corey suggested funding to support teachers through curriculum, supplies, and energy pathways as well as grants to the college and career pathways.
	3. Diane suggested a mini grant program where one page requests can be submitted for all schools/energy pathways, and technical colleges.
	4. Rosa said that it is important to understand the objectives – who and what areas are strategic to the mission of GEICC. Rosa also suggested partnering with CEWD for the STEM Challenge. GEICC could create their own STEM challenge or encourage Georgia schools to participate and give state wide awards. This would allow the schools to also participate in the national competition as well. CEWD has the model and rubric that she can share with GEICC. She also suggested summer camps (post covid) that would be run by volunteers. These camps could be spread throughout the state or specifically in urban areas, whichever meets the strategic goals of the organization.
	5. Sabrina said that the 52 Electric Cities members are struggling in recruitment and retention and she suggested looking into ways to support ECOG in workforce development.
7. **CEWD Updates**
	1. There will be a webinar on May 25th, focusing on renewable energy workforce development and SCADA virtual training that will be used by schools. Jim Auld from NextEra Energy will be presenting. More webinars will be coming through the Summer but have not been scheduled yet. She will resend the invitation to the webinar for distribution to the Executive Committee.
	2. Energy Careers 2021 will happen on October 20th. They will be taking three tracks – high school students, college students, and career changers and job seekers. Each track will explore different topics and the committee is still working on the agendas and keynote speakers. Some topics will be renewable energy, CAS testing and preparation, and business careers (not just skilled trades). They will be awarding virtual scout badges to encourage attendance from girl and boy scouts, and they will be introducing the STEM challenge. Last year’s event showed that it was difficult for people to find specific exhibit hall booths, so they will be organizing the booths more clearly this year.
	3. CEWD is partnering with military magazines to provide information about energy careers for veterans. CEWD has provided an article to Military.com and Rosa will be doing an interview with MilitarySpouse.com today.
8. **Roundtable comments**
	1. **Angie Farsee:** In reference to distributing more GEICC funds, Angie suggested to clearly identify who/what are the strategic targets, and to identify what is sustainable. She reminded the group that next year GEICC will be spending $50,000 that will go to the career fair.
	2. **Saundra King:** Saundra said that she will always support and advocate for additional funds to the technical college systems as these programs are always underfunded. She also said that the statewide meeting of faculty to review the curriculum for lineworker/truck driving programs will happen in June. Once a date is pinpointed, she will provide the information to Lindsay for distribution.
	3. **Lindsay Silveus:** Lindsay said that she has set up a GEICC LinkedIn page to provide membership and industry focused information to connect the GEICC members in another way. Please connect with that page and provide Lindsay with any content that would be good to be shared on that site.
	4. **Todd Day:** Todd introduced the group to a workforce utility construction program sponsored by Connecting Henry. This program is specific to at risk young adults and provides in class and on the job training. It is a state funded pilot program launched prior to COVID last year. They have lost funding as it was done through the school system. Todd suggested that this might be a good way to use surplus GEICC funds to support this project.
	5. **Marilyn Walker:** Marilyn suggested looking into sponsoring the First Robotics program with the surplus GEICC funds. She said their donations and funding are down. They have focus on teens and diverse groups.
	Rosa noted that they may look at sponsoring a First Tech team in an urban area. This program costs less and creates more diversity, especially with teen girls.
	6. **Rita Wilson:** Greystone has won the business partner of the year from the college and career academies. The nomination came from the state and a group from Greystone went to the state capital for the award presentation. She also noted that West Georgia Technical College is beginning their ELAC programs in July.
9. The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 17th, 2021. There will be a board meeting at 10am followed by the membership meeting at 1pm.
10. Jamal ended the meeting at 10:57 a.m.