 

**Executive Committee Conference Call**July 15, 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)

Travis Williams (AGL) Corey Hines (AGL) Kenny Holiday (Southern Company)

Ashley Varnador (Pike) Angie Farsee (GTC) Todd Day (Diversified Utilities)

Saundra King (TCSG) Diane McClearen (Oglethorpe)

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**
	1. Marilyn asked the Board Minutes to be updated to note that the BOD discussed determining how much money should be kept on hand for the organization. No other changes requested.
2. **Treasurer’s Report**
	1. The Deposit Detail shows $63,455 Year to Date
	2. This year GEICC has paid $45,531.82 in expenses
	3. The Quickbooks balance is $153,585.12. The QB outstanding checks is $9,216.05 however, Angie is holding a check for one more scholarship recipient for $1,000. Since the report was run, three more students have cashed their checks. There is one payment for the golf outing that has not been received, so the outstanding receivables shows $750. The projected balance is $144,119.07
	4. In a follow up discussion from the Board Meeting when Mike Smith asked how much money should be carried over in the operating budget, Angie noted that in the past the organization has kept $50,000 in reserves. This year GEICC only spent $9,000 in the CEFCA event and that cost will go up 3 times next year. The golf tournament and CEFCA career fair are the largest expenditures. Angie said it would be good to identify how long GEICC can function on $60 - $75K balance per year and where can the surplus be used for other sponsorships?
	5. Jamal said that GEICC can always give away more scholarships, but he would rather use the money to support the technical colleges. Angie advocated for possible sponsorship of Magic Camp or any other organization that reaches diverse audiences.
	6. Angie also noted that in the future it may be beneficial to ask GEICC members who participate in the CEFCA Career Fair to participate in funding the event. This will keep from depleting the GEICC reserves.
	7. Jamal said that it might be important to look at each year individually instead of having a set procedure for sponsorships.
3. **Scholarship**
	1. Twenty five students were offered scholarships. The group represents a diverse group of students (gender, ethnicity, and region of the state) and all students except one had a GPA of 3.5 or higher. The outstanding student will attend a Lineworker training program.
	2. Marilyn is working on the scholarship application for 2022 and will have it ready to go on November 1st with the deadline for applying March 31st. Diane noted later in the meeting that it might be good to make the deadline mid-March to give more time to make decisions and award the scholarships before the students leave school.
	3. There was discussion about the difficulty in connecting with students to receive the necessary information (W9s and registration on the website) and it was noted that it may be easier to connect with students while they are still in school. Jamal also noted that post-COVID it is preferable to award scholarships in person when all of the necessary information can be received and the students can be publicly honored.
	4. Marilyn suggested setting up electronic deposits to streamline getting payments out to students, possibly Paypal, Zelle, or Venmo. These will carry some, but minimal fees.
	5. Angie said that as momentum continues for the scholarship program, it might be good to make media announcements/ press releases. Jamal noted that Lindsay shared a video of the recipients on social media.
4. **Membership meeting**
	1. Jamal reviewed how the membership meeting in June went. There were 40 – 50 people on the meeting and a good mix of utilities and educators. He said that there were several representatives from Newton Utilities. If anyone knows representatives of Newton, please let Jamal know so GEICC can work to engage them as members.
	2. Corey asked if GEICC could hold a mixer with the Board and Executive Committee as between turnover and retirements these two groups do not know each other. Jamal said we will look at holding this in the fall.
	3. Jamal also thanked Saundra for her work to organize and coordinate the ELAC representatives for the meeting.
5. **CEWD Updates**
	1. There are several webinars happening this summer, one of them is today – 7/15/2021. The webinar today will be on SCADA and is beneficial for educators and industry partners and hosted by representatives from NextEra. All webinars will be recorded and available in the archives.
	2. CEWD is also producing podcasts that are available to be listened to at your convenience.
	3. Planning is happening for EnergyCareers 2021. CEWD is working with diverse organizations to create the program and they have already received sponsors. They will have three panels of speakers – one focused on high school students, one for college students, and one for veterans/career changers. Each panel will have 4-5 topics that they will discuss throughout the afternoon. Anyone who registers for the event will have access to the recorded sessions for 2 months after the event, so educators have flexibility in showing the sessions to students. A Keynote Speaker has not been identified yet. Rosa will send the sponsorship information to Lindsay – the cost for a consortia sponsorship is $500 - companies will pay a larger fee, but will have additional opportunities to engage with students.
	4. The Workforce Summit will be held in person on November 16 – 18 at the Madison Hotel in DC at a cost of $209/night. The in-person event will provide networking and hands on sessions, followed by a virtual webinar series in early December. There will be a minimal cost for attendees of the virtual session only – if anyone attends the in-person event there is no cost to attend the virtual sessions. Jamal encouraged the committee to share information from CEWD with colleagues.
	5. The workforce survey will be completed in late summer, over 60 companies have participated so far. The data will be evaluated and the national information released in November, regional data released in December. Contractors will have their own survey results this year reflecting their industry.
	6. The Get Into Energy website is in production and the homepage is complete – the entire site will be completed by the end of August. CEWD is requesting testimonials with photos and videos. If your company has videos or there are people who would be good to provide testimonials, please reach out to Rosa. They are also looking for info/videos about cool projects that industry is doing with the goal of showcasing the cutting edge trends of the industry.
	7. Angie suggested making sure that Roger Ivey of DOE is in the loop to distribute info to educators about upcoming CEWD events.
6. **Roundtable comments**
	1. **Angie:** Georgia Transmission was back in the office as of June 21st
	2. **Diane:** Oglethorpe was back to work in June also. She suggested that we find a committee member to organize the Career Expo event February 24 – 25th. She also suggested that we put a membership mixer on the calendar.
	3. **Corey:** Currently working on a workforce development summit in coordination with AGL’s partners.
	4. **Saundra:** Saundra gave an update on the Lineworker meeting held July 1st. Federal requirements now state that all students need to receive a CDL through a legitimate, accredited program. To comply with these requirements, the Technical Colleges system have decided that students coming into Lineworker (and other technical programs) must complete an outside CDL program or do the outside CDL program simultaneous with the Lineworker program. The technical colleges will be removing the minimal CDL training from their curriculum. If you have questions about these changes, please reach out to Saundra.
	5. **Sabrina:** Asked for a list of people who participated in the membership meeting. She is working with the ECG partners to make sure they are engaged and getting GEICC information. She sent a summary of the meeting to the members and will be following up with individual meetings.
	6. **Sheri:** Connected recently with Patrick Bowie and discussed ways that ECG can engage their members with GEICC. ECG will be fully back in the office on July 19th with options for remote workers.
	7. **Todd:** Contractors are having trouble retaining workers due to labor shortages. They are looking at new funding options.
	8. **Marilyn:** Marilyn had to leave the meeting early, so Jamal gave a Georgia Power update: GA Power had teacher externships last month and 8 teachers attended from College & Career and Energy Pathway programs. The event was a success and was beneficial to hear about challenges that the teachers experience in schools. Jamal would like to replicate this event for GEICC next year.
7. The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 12 at 10am.
8. Jamal ended the meeting at 11:01 a.m.