



Board Members			Committee Chairs		
President	<b>Cindy West</b>	Present	Annual Conference	<b>Ryan Luckett</b>	Present
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	<b>Linda Cook</b>	Present	Career Development	<b>Tamara Ellison</b>	Present
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	<b>Ashlan Troutman-Webb</b>	Present	Communications	<b>Melanie Chandler</b>	Absent
Treasurer	<b>Donna McGinnis</b>	Present	Government Relations/Strategic Planning	<b>Carlos Encinas</b>	Absent
Secretary	<b>Tashana Rivers</b>	Present	Membership	<b>Marlena Joseph</b>	Absent
Director	<b>Amy Bennett</b>	Present	Scholarship/Awards	<b>Ivey Adams</b>	Absent
Director	<b>Ramona Bivins</b>	Present	Technical Resources	<b>Kevin Hutcheson</b>	Present
Director	<b>Jennifer Fricks</b>	Absent			
Director	<b>Susan Van Nus</b>	Present			
Historian	<b>Angie Sorrow</b>	Absent			
Past President	<b>Sheryl Bowman</b>	Present			

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Cindy West called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes for November 13, 2023, Business Meeting was made by Ashlan Troutman-Webb and seconded by Susan Van Nus. **All motions passed unanimously.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Donna McGinnis reported we currently have a total of \$577,836.01. The total balance is spread across Vanguard investment funds balance of \$356,874.15 and an operating account balance of \$160,961.86. President Cindy West and Donna McGinnis received an email on February 15, 2024, from Tracy Arnolds office at the Carl Vinson Institute notifying the receipt of a surplus refund of \$57,849.35 due from the 2023 GGFOA conference. The check is currently in transit.

A motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was made by Sheryl Bowman and seconded by Amy Bennett. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Conference Update-** President Cindy West & Ryan and Luckett have been in communication with Tracy Arnold. Cindy West informed the board that we have selected a keynote speaker for



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the 2024 conference. She stated we would be bringing back the Sunday night dinner with entertainment. A contract has been signed regarding the Sunday night entertainment.

Ryan Lockett revealed the 2024 Conference theme to be “Treasure Awaits Mapping Your Government Financial Future”. He stated the sponsor letter and form were sent out on March 1, 2024. Responses are currently being received for sponsorships. The registration deadline is April 30, 2024. The sponsorship amount is to remain the same. A few benefits were added to becoming a sponsor. First, we will allow Diamond sponsors to submit a short commercial to be played during the conference or allow the sponsor to welcome the attendees during one of the general sessions. Platinum sponsors will be recognized during both breakfast and lunch breaks. We are trying to create additional opportunities for sponsoring such as beverage breaks, and Sunday, and or Tuesday events.

Ryan Lockett has been working closely with Ashlan Troutman-Webb and Tracy Arnolds regarding the 2024 conference content. Most of the sessions are set and confirmed. We are just awaiting a few confirmations for the sessions. We have added two new sessions on Sunday Afternoon. The conference will start on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Until 5:15 p.m. Both sessions are related to technology training. These sessions will be focused on Microsoft 365 and Advanced Excel. The conference start time has been moved to begin at 8:30 am instead of 9:00 am on Monday and Tuesday to cover more content. We have confirmed our economic update speaker. We are extending the Legislative update to be 1 hour long. The general sessions will focus on budget and audit. He mentioned Shayne Kavanagh with GFOA will be returning to discuss GFOA best practices. The planning for the breakout sessions is going well.

Ryan Lockett stated the Keynote speaker will be Dr. Melissa Thurman. She served as a professor at Augusta State. She will be speaking on the topic “Refresh, Refuel and Recharge Improving Adaptability, Grit and Resiliency to Minimize Burnout and Maximize Performance”.

He also mentioned we will be expanding the use of the conference app. This will allow participants to ask questions via the app during general sessions. In terms of events, we will be adding more to Sunday.

The first-time attendee session will continue with the effort to have more board members present to welcome guests with gifts. Ryan also mentioned the cocktail connections hour will start right after the Sunday sessions. This will be an opportunity to get more participation and exhibitor connections. He would like to include a scavenger hunt as part of the cocktail connections with chances to win prizes. We will be bringing back free drinks during the cocktail connections. Dinner and entertainment will be held after the cocktail connections. We have booked highly recommended Danny Adams for entertainment on Sunday night. Tuesday evening will be at the Westin. We are also considering bringing back the casino night with dinner



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and free drinks. We plan on having coffee and tea throughout each day during the conference with soda and water during the snack breaks. We will be providing a box lunch on Monday. The purpose is to encourage attendees to attend various unofficial breakout sessions based on various categories of groups such as small governments, utilities, etc. as a networking opportunity.

We would like to enhance our communication and marketing this year to send multiple updates regarding the conference to encourage registration. We would like to consider the use of Constant Contact to send emails. Cindy West highlighted Constant Contact will cost \$600 total for 6 months.

A motion to approve to use of Constant Contact for six months was made by Donna McGinnis and seconded by Tamara Ellison. **The motion passed unanimously.**

President Cindy West mentioned being present for the first-time attendee meeting and would like Ashlan Troutman-Webb and Linda Cook to be present as well. We will have a program for the first-time attendees on Sunday night followed by dinner and entertainment.

- **Award Presentations-** President Cindy West would like for the Board to participate in presenting all GGFOA awards in person. Ashlan Troutman-Webb shared her experience on presenting the Budget award to Madison County in February 2024. Cindy will reach out to members regarding future interest in our presence to present awards.
- **In-Person Training-** President Cindy West is awaiting the contact person to respond regarding the in-person training. We do have someone interested in funding the training. There may be some shared costs involved. We need hosting sites. A follow-up email will be sent out to the board regarding the status of in-person training.
- **2026 Conference-** Ryan Lockett stated we currently do not have a site for the 2026 conference. Carl Vinson has reached out to the Savannah Convention Center for pricing and availability. The Savannah Convention Center is available October 4-7, 2026. The cost will be \$290k compared to \$238k for Jekyll Island for the facility, breakdown, food, and exhibit hall. President Cindy West raised thoughts on discussing the move to Savannah. Multiple board members think it is a good idea along with having a good financial position to host it in Savannah.

A motion to approve Carl Vinson signing a contract to have the 2026 conference in Savannah was made by Linda Cook and Seconded by Ashlan Troutman-Webb. **The motion passed unanimously.**



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- **Investing-** President Cindy West would like to invest more cash into the Vanguard investment bank account. She will check with Lauren Puckett for additional information. Donna McGinnis will work with Cindy West on investing.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Annual Conference** – Ryan Luckett shared it is time to update our contract with the Carl Vinson Institute for the conferences. Minimum changes were made to the contract regarding the scope of work and fees. Both the draft scope and draft fees have been provided. A proposed fee increase of \$3K to 4K is expected for the next three years until the year 2027. We previously paid \$35k this past year but is set to increase to \$44k next year. President Cindy West will send out the information regarding the fees and conduct a vote by mail.
- **Career Development** – Tamara Ellison has no updates to report. Present
- **Communications** – Melanie Chandler needs newsletter information sent out immediately to be added to this month. Absent
- **Government Relations/Strategic Planning** – Carlos Encinas has no updates to report. Absent
- **Membership**- Marlena Joseph has no update to report. Absent
- **Scholarship/Awards**- Ivey Adams has no update to report. Absent
- **Technical Resources**- Kevin Hutcheson has no updates to report. Present

**OFFICER AND DIRECTOR DISCUSSION:**

**President-** Cindy West. Nothing to report.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President-** Linda Cook. Nothing to report.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President-** Ashlan Troutman Webb. Nothing to report.

**Treasurer-** Donna McGinnis. Nothing to report.

**Secretary-** Tashana Rivers. Nothing to report

**Historian-** Angie Sorrow Absent. Nothing to report.

**Past President-** Shery Bowman. Nothing to report.

**Director-** Amy Bennett. Nothing to report.



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**Director-** Susan Van Nus asked about Ivey Adams presence. She stated her concerns regarding sending out scholarship applications by March 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Cindy West asked Susan to follow up with Ivey Adams on the status of the scholarship committee.

**Director-** Jennifer Fricks. Nothing to report.

**Director-** Ramona Bivins. Nothing to report

**ADJOURNMENT**

Cindy West adjourned the meeting at 3:43p.m.