

Georgia Grant Professionals Association

E-news

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GEORGIA

Amanda Day: A Credit to Her Profession

Amanda Day, Grants Administrator for the City of Alpharetta, has worn many hats for Grant Professionals Association: past President of the local Georgia Grant Professionals Association, current President of the Grant Professionals Certification Institute™, and primary developer and organizer of the annual Southern Regional Grant Conference. She is even arranging Social Hours for Grant Professionals beginning with a get-together on Friday, August 15, at 6:30 pm at Meehan's in Atlantic Station (see details following this story). Amanda recently answered some questions posed by GGPA:

What do you do for the City of Alpharetta?

I am the grants administrator, a lone division of one. Like most of my grant peeps, I'm very good at juggling – grant writing, project and grant management, prospect research, audit prep work, and other duties as assigned.

How long have you been working there?

I started in Alpharetta in May 2003. It was my second grown up job, and I assumed I'd stay for a few years before moving on to something bigger and better. Little did I know, I landed in the perfect job for both my career and family life. So 11 years later, I'm still here.

What brought you into that job?

My husband forced me to apply. He decided we need to move from Henry County to somewhere north of Atlanta, saw the posting, and literally strong-armed me into submitting my resume. I didn't meet the minimum number of years of experience (they wanted five and I only had two in the grant profession), but somehow I landed an interview and managed to convince them with samples of my work that I knew what I was doing.

Who are your biggest funders?

The Georgia Department of Transportation (ultimately the Federal Highway Administration) is Alpharetta's biggest funder. We also receive sizeable awards from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and Federal Emergency Management Agency. About 95% of our grant funding is from federal or state agencies.

What are the most challenging things about your job?

The biggest challenge is juggling it all. My main priority is to make sure we successfully maintain our current awards, but I still need to find time to research, write, and submit new grant awards. Plus I volunteer my time with GGPA and the Grant Professionals Certification Institute. Like most grant professionals, another challenge is getting the information I need for grant applications or reports from my various co-workers. This has gotten better over the years, but there is always that one holdout.

What are the most satisfying things about your job?

I love seeing a grant project come to fruition. Many years ago I worked on a grant to build a new neighborhood park, complete with some playground equipment. After it was built, I took my son and watched him enjoy the swings, slides, and climbing wall. Knowing I helped make that possible is an incredible feeling. For the longest time he called it "Mommy's park."

Tell us a story about how you got a recent grant.

Alpharetta was awarded \$14,900 for a bicycle safety campaign. While this is not a big award, the two police officers who run our bicycle unit do an incredible job educating children and youth in the area about bicycle safety. The grant allowed them to go to national training and purchase needed equipment and supplies for their community programs. They were so appreciative of the support, and that makes it so much fun for me to work with them.

What advice would you give for someone who would like to do what you do?

Make every effort to attend the GPA National Conference and/or your local chapter meetings. If you already have the writing skills, jump in at your organization through pro bono work. Or do like I did: Help the grant writer and learn as much as you can from him/her.

What are the gains you get from being in GGPA and GPA?

Before finding GPA and our local Georgia chapter, I felt like there were only a handful of people plodding along in positions like mine. The training and networking opportunities through both GPA and GGPA are invaluable! I've met others I can instantly call on for help in pretty much any grant situation. If I haven't handled it before, rest assured Danny, Charles, Sylvia, Kimberly, Nancy, Tanikia, or one of my fellow GGPA members has.

If you have at least three years in the grant profession and five successful grant awards to your name, but you don't have your GPC credential yet, what's holding you back? The GPC is a great way to advance your career and distinguish yourself as a leader in the field. The GPC Scholarship application is open now through September 1st. Find out more information at www.grantcredential.org. Would love to add you to our elite group of credential grant professionals! (See story below for more details.)

GPC Scholarships available in 2014, Application Period Now Open

Thinking about sitting for the Grant Professional Certified™ (GPC) Exam? You could not have chosen a better year. Thanks to donations from individuals, the Grant Professionals Certification Institute (GPCI), and the Grant Professionals Foundation, scholarship funding is available for individuals interested in taking the electronic exam. Any individual interested in the scholarship is welcome to apply starting Friday, August 1, 2014. The deadline to apply is Monday, September 1, 2014, 5:00pm, EST. Scholarship recipients will be announced at the Grant Professionals Association National Conference in Portland, Oregon, October 15-18.

All individuals awarded a 2014 GPC Scholarship must submit their eligibility packet to GPCI by March 1, 2015, and if approved to sit for the exam, take it by September 30, 2015. The cost for sitting for the GPC Exam is \$539 for Grant Professional Association members and \$739 for non-members. If awarded a scholarship, it will be in the form of a credit directly to GPCI for all or a portion of the GPC exam cost. Each individual is responsible for covering any additional expenses, including transportation costs to the exam site.

Scholarship applicants are responsible for registering for the exam in addition to filling out the scholarship application. To learn more about this process, visit the Grant Professionals Certification Institute website at www.grantcredential.org. To submit a scholarship application or learn additional information about the scholarship application and requirements, please visit the Grant Professionals Foundation website at www.grantprofessionalsfoundation.org.

Announcing Quarterly Happy Hours for Grant Professionals

GGPA is starting a quarterly social hour as an excuse to mingle with our fellow grant professionals in a less formal setting. To tee off this social experiment, we'll be meeting up on Friday, August 15, at 6:30pm at Meehan's in Atlantic Station. Parking is easily accessible. You can stay for 5 minutes or until last call – it's up to you!!

(http://www.meehansatlanticstation.com/atlantic-station_home.html).

Upcoming GGPA meetings

Listed below are the upcoming speakers scheduled for GGPA meetings for the next three months. All meetings take place at 10 a.m. at the Atlanta Food Bank.

Aug. 26: Deborah Lazare White, Operations Manager, Charitable Giving for Georgia Power: How to develop competitive corporate grants and foster mutually beneficial corporate partnerships.

Sept. 23: David Broussard, Grants and Research Officer, Wellstar Foundation and GGPA Treasurer: Program and Mission Related Investments within your grant-seeking strategy

Oct. 28: Erin Drury Boorn, Senior Philanthropic Advisor, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta: How the community foundation invests in the local community

New Job Opportunities

[Grants Manager - Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities](#)

[Grant Writer - Associated Colleges of the South](#)

[Grants Administrator - Bartow County](#)

[Grants Specialist/Manager – Georgia Emergency Management Agency](#)

[Corporate Grants Administrative Assistant – UPS Foundation](#)

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Have a great day,

