



**Attendance:** Meghann Adams, Jane Arney, Ryan Braid, Deb Cook, Jonathon Coe, Cynthia McGuiness; via WebEx: Pat Sheppard, David Broussard, Freda Stephenson, Sue Mastrario, Shelley Wales, Samantha Bishop, Barb Boggs, Barbara Bouy, Simone Escho, Kelli Romero

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Meghann introduced Shelly Wales, GPA Chapter Relations Manager, who was also joined by Kelli Romero, Membership & Marketing Director, and Barb Boggs, Office and Volunteer Relations Manager.

**Guest Speaker:** Shelley Wales discussed several aspects of the Grant Professionals Association, which is a non-profit membership organization affiliated with the Grant Professionals Foundation (GPF) and the Grant Professional Certification Institute (GPCI). Shelley went on to discuss the many benefits of being a member of the GPA, such as access to Grant Zone, the Consultant Directory, Local Chapters, Job Center, Publications, and Networking to name a few. The consultant directory is something that GPA members need to opt in to be part of it. The Grant Zone community offers a variety of resources, special interest groups, and discussion posts.

Barb Boggs was next and she discussed the GPA Annual Conference, which is held each year in October or November. For 2018, the conference will be held November 7-10 in Chicago at the Swissotel. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year for the annual conference and the first one was held in Chicago! Registration opens May 1<sup>st</sup> and the early bird rate will end on July 31. \$525 early bird rate for GPA members and \$740 early bird rate for non-members. Hotel rates are \$249 per night. Barb discussed the conference allows for learning best practices, workshops, and networking. Please go to [www.grantprofessionals.org/conference](http://www.grantprofessionals.org/conference) for further information. Barb moved on to discuss the several committees within the GPA.

Barb then discussed the several committees and task forces that are within the GPA and are open to GPA members to be part of, unless stated otherwise. The committees include: Bylaws, Chapter Advisory (specifically for chapter officers), Ethics, Governmental Advisory, Finance, Long Range Planning, Nominating, Professional Growth & Development, Publications. The task forces are short-term and include Grant Professionals Hall of Fame, Mentoring, Pioneer Award, and Social Media.

Barb went on to discuss the Mentoring Program. It launched last August and allows GPA members to register to be a mentor or a mentee. Mentors can volunteer to have 1 up to 5 mentees and meet at least 1 time a month. Go to Grant Zone on the GPA website to sign up, but if you have questions about the Mentoring Program or the GPA Committees or Task Forces, please email Barb at [barb@grantprofessionals.org](mailto:barb@grantprofessionals.org).

Kelli Romero was our next speaker and she discussed the many webinars that she hosts. Webinars occur once a month and are presented by top speakers in the industry. Webinars are recorded in order for people to go back and view them. The webinars are free to GPA members and \$30 each for non-members. Webinars can be found under the *Education* tab.

Kelli went on to discuss Publications which include the GPA newsletter, Annual Journal of the GPA, and Strategy Papers. Please email Kelli if you are interested in contributing to any of the publications at [kelli@grantprofessionals.org](mailto:kelli@grantprofessionals.org).

Kelly went on to discuss the Job Center, in which jobs within your organization can be posted for 30 days for \$99 if you are a GPA member and 30 days for \$330 if you are a non-member.

Shelly briefly discussed Chapters and Headquarters within the GPA. Chapters serve the important role of being a local entity and a place where members can meet other grant professionals. Jodi Pearl is the Regional Representative in our area. Jodi acts as a liaison between the local chapters and GPA headquarters and she can direct Chapters to chapter resources. She can be reached at [Region7Rep@grantprofessionals.org](mailto:Region7Rep@grantprofessionals.org).

Shelley also reminded us that March 31<sup>st</sup> will be the last day that first-time members can join GPA and get a \$25.00 discount. At check out, just type in 2018DRIVE. March 30<sup>st</sup> is also the last day for the Spring GPA Scholarships.

#### **Chapter Business:**

#### **September Minutes Review and Approval:**

- Meghann asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the February minutes, none were needed and the minutes were approved.

#### **President's Report:**

- Membership Drive ends March 31, 2018. Last day for first-time members to get a \$25.00 discount if they use the code 2018DRIVE at check out.
- Spring GPA Scholarships due March 30, 2018.  
<http://grantprofessionalsfoundation.org/membership-scholarships/>
- GCPI released new competencies and skills, please visit the website and take the time to review. Here is the link: <http://www.grantcredential.org/>
- Spring State of Grant Seeking Survey due March 31, 2018. This survey is meant to identify trends and understand current grantseeking. Please find the survey in the GPA Newsletter.
- Officer elections will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am the Hudson Grille in Midtown. This will be in place of our regular monthly meeting.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Samantha Bishop provided the Treasurer's Report and as of February 28, 2018 the current balance for the GGPA is \$25,408.05. This includes \$175.00 in Chapter dues and \$6,419.00 in Program Income.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **Program Committee:**
  - Samantha Tucker will be the presenter at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

- **Membership Committee:**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Chapter with the most members.
- **Communications Committee:**
  - Member highlight is needed for the next newsletter that will go out this Friday (3/30/18). Please email Meghann at [madams@zoatlanta.org](mailto:madams@zoatlanta.org).
- **Every Chapter Challenge:**
  - No updates
  
- **Southern Regional Grants Conference:**
  - Conference is right around the corner! So far, 51 people are registered for the conference and 15 for the pre-conference. Registration closes on April 10, but registration will occur the day of at the Morrow Center.
  - Volunteers are still needed, please email Amanda at [amandadaygpc@gmail.com](mailto:amandadaygpc@gmail.com) if you want to help out!
  - Pasta Social will take place April 18<sup>th</sup> at Olive Garden across from the Morrow Center.

**Meeting adjourned and the officer elections will take place on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am at the Hudson Grille in Midtown in place of monthly meeting.**