GGPA Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2016

Welcome – DeaRonda Harrison, Chapter President

Presentation – Kimberly Hays de Muga and Danny Blitch, authors of “In the Trenches: Prepare for the GPC Exam” (co-authored with Pauline Annarino and Leslie Mitchell)

* Writing Collaboratively – Choose wisely when choosing writing partners. Choose people who can work together and ones that can meet deadlines. Agreement must be attained between the writers, editors, and publishers.
* It took about 1 ½ years to write the book. It was initially supposed to be a webinar.
* Be real about the time it takes to happen and know that deadlines might not be met.
* So far, there have been reviews saying that people have enjoyed reading the book.
* The book is 10 chapters long – 9 chapters following the test competencies and 1 addressing test anxiety.
* Part of the proceeds from the sale of the book goes to the Grant Professionals Association for fund test scholarships.
* While writing the book, the authors had to make decisions on how to define things such as the difference between a program and a project.
* Chapter 1: Grant Research – vetting grant announcements for determining appropriateness for the organization.
* Chapter 2: Organizational Development – is your organization ready to apply?
* Chapter 3: Project Design – logic models, ideal grant team
* Chapter 4: Grant Proposal Development – best practices for building a good proposal; understanding what’s needed to put the proposal together; making it clear, concise, and compelling
* Chapter 5: Grant Post Award Management – doing what you said you were going to do; Grant management isn’t exciting to everyone, but it’s an important responsibility.
* Chapter 6: Ethics – discusses code of ethics, why it’s important, and common pitfalls
* Chapter 7: Professional Practices – If you know your craft and are familiar with its rules and regulations, you have important and marketable skills. No schools, no credentials, etc to make grant writing an actual profession.
* Chapter 8: Relationships – have connections with funders, build working relationships and make meaningful connections that are mutually beneficial
* Chapter 9: The Writing Prompt – exam writing exercise – must make a persuasive argument, be organized and clear, use the information provided in the writing prompt, adhere to conventional Standard English, and follow formatting. Write as if you are writing to your peers (other grant professionals). It’s more like an LOI or case statement. Pay attention to the instructions. For the exam, pick either first or third person and stick with it.
* Chapter 10: Test Anxiety – strategies for reducing anxiety.
* The exam is 150-160 multiple choice questions and an essay question. You must have 3 years of grant writing experience within the last 5 years and a minimum of 5 awards within the past 7 years. There are no education criteria.
* You can find the book on Amazon and Barnes and Noble online.
* There is a book coupon for 20% off if purchased through CharityCannel Press: <http://bit.ly/gpc-prep-gpf>. Coupon code: gpc-prep-gdf.

Chapter Business

* Last month, the planning committee for the national GPA conference met with GPA staff to discuss the conference. Amanda Day is the committee chair.
* There is a Grant Writing USA training March 29-30 in Atlanta that is being taught by Amanda Day. [www.grantwritingusa.net](http://www.grantwritingusa.net)
* GGPA’s social media leader is Deb Cook. The newsletter is being geared back up. If you’d like to help with social media, email info@ggpa.org
* January minutes were approved – Motion by Kate Bachman, 2nd by Danny Blitch
* If you would like to present at a GGPA meeting, please email info@ggpa.org
* GPA Pioneer Award – Each year, 2 recognition awards are given to one national and one local donor to recognize their impact through grant making. GPA would like a local Atlanta person to be on the committee. Email Amanda Day or DeaRonda Harrison if you would like to participate. If you would like to nominate a donor, the form is on the GPA website. <http://www.grantprofessionals.org/content.asp?contentid=170>