Georgia Grant Professionals Association

Meeting Notes

January 26, 2016

Welcome: DeaRonda Harrison, Chapter President

Presentation: Keys to International Funding and Development – Ruth McLean Dawson, International Nonprofit Coach and Consultant

* Ms. Dawson has consulted with and worked in nonprofit organizations in the United States, Southeast Asia, Middle East, Central America, South America and Africa. A significant part of her work has been with refugees, immigrants and survivors of torture, genocide, human trafficking and ethnic cleansing. She has also worked with organizations providing services including case management, foster care and adoption, direct social services, mental health, health and wellness, housing, legal assistance, and environmental education and advocacy.
	+ Major challenge for smaller nonprofits to compete with bigger organizations (Red Cross, World Vision, etc.), but one of the keys to success is getting to know people.
	+ There are added layers to international funding opportunities such as language barriers and multi-governmental funding sources.
	+ Major international funders that can have complex funding opportunities include the United Nations, UNICEF, and the European Union.
	+ If you are considering getting involved with an international initiative, be wary of volunteering opportunities. Do your research first to make sure the organization has an established track record. Also familiarize yourself with local manners and customs and know that in most cases, transportation will be your biggest hurdle.
	+ Key components of international success is asking the people what they want and need and getting the community involved to ensure sustained support for your efforts. Also, like domestic fundraising and nonprofit work, collaboration and communication is essential.
	+ Ms. Dawson can be contacted at dawsonruth@aol.com or (202) 743- 8560

Chapter Business: DeaRonda Harrison

* The minutes from the November 22nd meeting were approved
	+ Motion by Lonnie Smith
	+ Second by Charles Alford
	+ Passed unanimously
* Job opportunities are being posted on the GGPA website [www.ggpa.org](http://www.ggpa.org).
* If you would like to help reestablish and publish the monthly chapter newsletter please email the officers at info@ggpa.org.
* The Planning Committee for the 18th Annual National Grant Professionals Association Conference in Atlanta will meet for the first time Wednesday (2/3/16). If you would like to join the Planning Committee please send an email to info@ggpa.org.
* If you would like to speak at the 2016 National Conference, applications are due February 16th, 2016. See [www.grantprofessionals.org](http://www.grantprofessionals.org) for more information.
* If you have speaker ideas for the local chapter meetings please email them to info@ggpa.org.
* Next month’s chapter meeting will be on Tuesday 2/23 at 10:00 at the Atlanta Community Food Bank. The speakers will be Kimberly Hays De Muga and Danny Blitch, who will discuss their recently published book about the Grant Professional Certification Institute (GPCI) exam.
* Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.