

**Summary**  
**Georgia Press Educational Foundation Inc.**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Thursday, Oct. 18**  
**Via conference call**  
**10 a.m.**

Present: Chairman Rick Harris, Atlanta, retired, Norfolk Southern  
Otis Brumby, GPA President, Marietta Daily Journal  
Eric Denty, The Press-Sentinel, Jesup  
Beth Neely, The Newnan Times-Herald  
Tom Parker, Atlanta, retired, Georgia EMC  
Robin Rhodes, GPA  
Roy Stowe, Jackson EMC  
Cheryl Williams, The Blackshear Times  
Kyle Wingfield, KW Creative

GPA Staff: Sean Ireland

Absent: Susan Catron, Savannah Morning News  
Mesha Wind, The Cairo Messenger  
Jim Wooten, Atlanta, retired, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

- I. Call to order  
Chairman Rick Harris called the meeting to order.
- II. Consensus Agenda:
  - A. Approval of agenda: After a motion from Harris and second from Eric Denty, the agenda was approved.
  - B. Minutes of April 13, 2018, meeting via conference call originating from GPA office, Atlanta: No corrections or additions presented. After a motion from Harris and second from Denty, the minutes were approved as presented.
  - C. Introduction of new trustees: Sean Ireland noted that the board of trustees has several new members. Current board members are:  
Terms concluding in 2019:  
Tom Parker  
Cheryl Williams  
Jim Wooten  
Terms concluding in 2020:  
Susan Catron  
Roy Stowe  
Mesha Wind  
Terms concluding in 2021:  
Eric Denty  
Rick Harris  
Beth Neely

Kyle Wingfield

III. Discussion items

A. Financial reports:

Financial statements were presented to the board. Robin Rhodes summarized the report. The foundation's investments have done very well, with GPEF earning more than \$28,000 in unrestricted revenue (investments) for the first quarter ending Sept. 30, 2018.

B. Election of officers:

1. Treasurer: Rhodes was elected treasurer for a one-year term.
2. Vice Chairman: Eric Denty was elected vice chairman for a one-year term.
3. Chairman: Susan Catron was elected chairman for a one-year term.

C. Internship funding request from Len Robbins for The Clinch County News  
The board approved a request from Robbins for funding for an internship for a local high school student. The internship needs to be performed during the school year for the student to receive academic credit. GPEF will see how the program works for a newspaper during a non-summer term.

IV. Updates

A. Internship Program 2018: Ireland provided notes to the board about how each of the summer internships was rated by the newspapers and interns, and which newspapers still owe information or did not use their internship grants.

The lowest rating of the program from a newspaper was an "8." The lowest rating from an intern was a "9."

Ireland provided information about the suggestions that were received from interns and newspapers from their evaluations about ways to improve the internship program.

There was discussion about why two newspapers awarded internship grants were unable to use them.

Ireland said the most common suggestion was that the interns would like to get together with fellow interns for critiques or continuing education sessions. There was discussion about the best ways and times to bring interns together during the year.

B. Scholarship Program 2018: All of the students who were awarded scholarships were confirmed as enrolled in school for fall semester, and their schools received the first half of their scholarship money for each student. The students are required to send proof of enrollment for spring semester for the second half of their scholarships to be sent to their schools by January.

V. Other

A. Fundraising activity: Rhodes said she would like to organize a silent auction at the GPA Convention in 2019 to benefit the foundation. GPA hopes to have vendors and booths during an event on Thursday at the tennis center at the Jekyll Island Club. Rhodes said big gifts are not

needed, but things like trips sell well, and that the staff will get to work on it.

Tom Parker said he was recently involved with a fundraising effort for another group and found that a raffle works better than a silent auction. The advantage is that with a raffle, run the same way as a silent auction but with prizes awarded by drawing, the organization keeps the money from all of the bidders as opposed to an auction, where only the winning bidder actually pays money. Parker is going to send details about how it works to Rhodes.

Ireland told board members to contact him for details about the convention and other information if they need it to help solicit donations.

- B. Report on discussions with college journalism advisers: Ireland noted that for the two years previous to this one, 14 and 15 students applied for scholarships, but that in this year, only seven applied. Upon request of the board, he contacted advisers at several colleges this summer to see what might be holding their students back from applying for scholarships. Ireland noted that he contacted advisers at different-sized colleges from across the state. He said the biggest takeaway he had was that some students still don't know about the availability of scholarships. He will be doing some different things to promote the programs, including using and sending the advertisement featuring Gabe Burns, a GPEF scholarship and internship program participant who is now the beat writer covering the Atlanta Braves for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He said he is trying to broaden the contacts to which he sends out scholarship/internship information at each of the schools.

Rhodes suggested distributing the ads through GNS's Statewide Classified Advertising Network.

Ireland highlighted some of the comments he received during conversations with college journalism teachers and advisers and asked if there were other ideas that board members would like to see GPEF do to promote the programs.

VI. Adjourn