

MINUTES
GEORGIA COUNTY CLERKS ASSOCIATION
Monday, April 30, 2012, 7:30am – 9:00am
Musgrove Room – Savannah Civic Center
Savannah, Georgia

Call to Order – GCCA President, Ms. Paige Dukes, Lowndes County Clerk/PIO, introduced herself and called the meeting to order at 7:38am. Then she recognized the breakfast sponsor Marsh-Ashley Abercrombie.

Invocation – GCCA Vice President, Mr. Don Townsend, Dade County Clerk/Finance Director, offered the Invocation.

Recognition of Guests – Catherine Bennett, CVIOG Program Manager, UGA introduced herself and recognized the guests who were in attendance.

Recognition of Newly Certified Clerks & Finance Officers – Ms. Bennett, CVIOG, then presented plaques to Certified County Clerks as follows:

- Erin Elaine Hall
- Carrie K. Kines
- Beth Rider
- Lisa Watson
- Christy Strickland was absent

Recognition of Officers – President Dukes recognized the officers of the Georgia County Clerks Association: Vice President Don Townsend, Dade County; and Secretary Mark Massey, Fulton County. (Treasurer Jennifer Rutledge, Rockdale County was absent).

Recognition of New Clerks and First Time Attendees – President Dukes asked the New Clerks and First Time Attendees to be acknowledged by raising their hands; whereupon the body offered applause.

New Business – President Dukes then introduced Elizabeth Whitworth, a representative from Jarrard & Davis, LLP, also County Attorney to Forsyth, Barrow & Cherokee Counties & the City Attorney for the City of Milton. She provided everyone with a 35-page document regarding the new Open Meetings and Open Records laws. During her presentation, there was a healthy discussion and a number of questions that were raised but could not be specifically clarified/answered.

In usual fashion, ACCG Executive Director Ross King greeted the membership during the breakfast. He presented future activities and goals of ACCG and he acknowledged the County Clerks as the group/body where he gets his energy.

Consideration to approve the Minutes of the September 12, 2011 and February 6, 2012 meetings – Mark Massey, GCCA Secretary, Fulton County Clerk to the Commission presented the minutes. A motion was made by Don Townsend and seconded by Davida Simpson, Dawson County, to approve the minutes. Hearing no objections, it was so ordered.

Consideration to approve the Treasurer’s Report – President Dukes indicated that the treasurer’s report would be provided at the next meeting in September (Athens).

Committee Reports – President Dukes called on any committee chairs to make a report, at which time only one report was made:

- Recognition/Awards Committee – On behalf of Chairperson Susan Mabry, Carroll County, JoAnn Metts, Coffee County, Chairperson, “2010 Clerk of the Year” indicated that the “Clerk of the Year” form needs to be updated to include the criteria for making nominations. She also indicated that a number of nominations were received and the selection process was very difficult.

Installation of GCCA 2011-2012 Officers – Dade County Commissioner Robert Goff administered oaths to the following officers (individually):

- Lisa Ritchie, Treasurer, Habersham County
- Mark Massey, Vice-President, Fulton County
- Don Townsend, President, Dade County

As the new President, Don Townsend gave a brief acceptance speech. Then he recognized out-going President Paige Dukes, Lowndes County, and presented her with a gift on behalf of her work on the Board. The gift was Kindle Fire tablet.

Door Prizes – Thereupon, door prizes were given out using name badges.

Adjournment – President Townsend adjourned the meeting at 9:17am.