

**GEORGIA MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
June 22, 2025**

Call to Order and Welcome

President Vernice Thompson called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending.

Invocation and Pledge was delivered by **Vanessa Holiday**.

President Thompson introduced Emily Davenport, GMA. Ms. Davenport gave a presentation, Lead Like it Matters (attached). Here Ms. Davenport spoke to Energy, that comes from within and with that energy, you have the ability to influence and guide others towards a common goal or vision. Ms. Davenport closed with: **Lead Like It Matters** – because it does; Build trust through accountability; Make your leadership worth following; and be the example you want to see. President Thompson thanked Ms. Davenport for her presentation.

President Thompson asked Vice President to do the roll call. Attendance is as follows:

Roll Call

The roll call was given by Vice President: Sharon Nelson

Vernice Thompson, President	Vacant, District 5
Sharon Nelson, Vice President	Telina Allred, District 6 (absent)
Mailyn Chastain, Treasure	Kim Reddick, District 7 (absent)
Jan LeViner, Secretary	Margaret Shelley, District 8
Deborah Walker-Reed, Immediate Past President	Angie Conner, District 9
Melissa Chosewood, District 1 (absent)	Melinda Crook, District 10 (absent)
Jackie Yearwood, District 2	Cristina Evans, District 11
Vanessa Holiday, District 3	Naomi Atkinson, District 12
Susan Barthalomew, District 4	

Others

Pam Helton, Georgia

Municipal Association (GMA)

Mark Massey, Savannah

Approval of Minutes

Secretary LeViner presented the minutes from May 14, 2025 Board meeting. Vanessa Holiday made a motion to approve the minutes. Naomi Atkinson seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve.

Financial Report

Marilyn Chastain presented the financials for January, February and March which were included in the Board Packets before them. Susan Barthalomew made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Christina Evans seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to approve.

President's Report

President Thompson stated she would like to encourage all City Clerks and Deputy Clerks to join GMCA which offers a variety of resources and networking opportunities. She then recognized the first-time

attendees. She also encouraged everyone to join IIMC. President Thompson then recognized the Past Presidents that were in attendance:

- Susan Hiott
- Sonja Tolbert
- Teresa Bolden
- Teresa Lynn
- Wynetta Bolder
- Pam Helton

She thanked them for their leadership and commitment to education opportunities for the Clerks.

Officer's Report

Pam Helton, GMA, approached the podium to give a report on the Errors and Admission Insurance coverage. Ms. Helton stated the GMCA had their own insurance and the Association has been doing that for the past three years. After some discussion at GMA it was determined that it is probably in the best interest of all the associations, which is the business year under GMCA for us to have our own coverage. She then asked for a motion. Sharon Nelson made a motion to approve. Marily Chastain seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve. President Thompson thanked Ms. Helton for doing all the research and bringing to the GMCA.

Vice President Sharon Nelson reminded everyone of the 50/50 raffle as the proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund.

Deborah Walker-Reed, Past President, stated she was privileged to represent GMCA on behalf of President Thompson at the Professional Clerk's Association Proclamation signing. There were 67 Clerks in attendance and the Governor was very ecstatic with the turnout. He thanked the Clerk's for their dedication and work they do for the their municipality.

Committee Chair Reports

Shavala Ames gave a report on the Marketing/Social Media Committee. Ms. Ames stated they have been getting over 200 likes, 33 comments and 11 shares on the website relating to the Governor signing the Proclamation.

Deborah Walker Reed, Education Committee, gave a report on upcoming education opportunities. She also gave a report on the recent Legal and Legislative training which was facilitated by Mr. Patel and Mr. Sox, GMA. There were 97 clerks at the online training which generated \$14,400 in revenue for the GMCA. She thanked Ms. Helton for support in organizing this training opportunity. Ms. Walker Reed continued there are new laws coming out which will impact the clerks and Mr. Sox is open to having another such training next year.

Mark Massey, Membership and Mentor. Mr. Massey stated the committee has reached out to all the new clerks to welcome them as well as provide support if needed. The next project is to reach out to those clerks who have let their membership lapse and find ways and opportunities to get them back on board as they feel they are coming to training, and they don't have anything that is necessarily pertinent to them.

Mark Massey, Region 3, Director, IIMC came forward to give a report. Mr. Massey welcomed the Clerk's to the City of Savannah and hoped they were able to attend the opening ceremony where Mayor Johnson,

City of Savannah, brought greetings as well. He encouraged everyone to become a member of IIMC and attend the upcoming Region 3 conference in Wrightsville Beach, NC. February 17 – 20, 2026. Mr. Massey stated that among the training opportunities there will be an Athenian Dialogue as well as classes to assist you in achieving your Certified and Master Clerk certification through IIMC.

Pam Helton, GMA, gave a report on upcoming training opportunities with GMA to include webinars which are free. These include different stages in disaster preparedness. There will also be a Human Resources Administration Certificate scheduled for October 21, 2025 and Safety Coordinator Training in August. She encouraged everyone to attend the events which are also listed on GMA's website. Ms. Helton then reported on the Clerk's IRS Registration. Evidentially we are not registered with the IRS and she will have to research old records to try and reestablish our number. She then reminded everyone of the upcoming Clerk's conference in Athens, September 7 – 9, 2025.

Being no further business, President Thompson called for a motion to adjourn. Wynetta Bolder made a motion to adjourn. Susan Barthalomew seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35PM.

Vernice Thompson, President

Jan LeViner, Secretary

Lead Like It Matters

June 22, 2025

Clerks Business Meeting & Lunch

- LEADERSHIP MOTIVATION & GROWTH -

ENERGY

COMES FROM WITHIN

Video by JB Kellogg: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vkm_YBwf7JM

Lead Like It Matters

**Imagine if EVERY decision
you made was on display.**

Would YOU lead differently?

Lead Like It Matters

Leadership is...

... the ability to **influence** and **guide** others towards a common goal or vision. It involves not just directing, but also **motivating** and **inspiring** individuals to achieve more than they might alone. **Effective** leadership requires **cultivating** skills like **communication**, **decision-making**, and fostering a **positive** environment that encourages **growth** and **collaboration**.

Lead Like It Matters

**Leadership is Influence,
not Authority**

Lead Like It Matters

**Leadership is not about being the best.
It's about making everyone else better.**

Lead Like It Matters

Accountability

The Backbone of Trust

Lead Like It Matters

Ethics

The Everyday Choice

Lead Like It Matters

Chose To:

Lead like it matters – because it does.

Build trust through accountability.

Make your leadership worth following.

Be the example you want to see.

THANK YOU