

**GEORGIA MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2026**

Call to Order and Welcome

President Vernice Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:30AM, January 21, 2026 and thanked everyone for their attendance. She then asked Regina Russell to offer the invocation.

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

Roll Call

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

Other GMCA Committee Members Present

Pam Helton, Georgia Municipal Association	Margaret Shelley, Clerk of the Year Committee
Hayley Beaver, Hospitality Committee	Jennifer Sikes, Hospitality
Wynetta Bolder, Past President	Brian Henderson, Marketing/Social Media
Mark Massey, Membership	Reginia Russell, Advisory

Approval of Minutes. Jan LeViner, Secretary, presented the minutes from December 17, 2025 Board Meeting. Naomi Atkinson made a motion to approve the minutes. Sharon Nelson seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve.

Financial Report

Marilyn Chastain, Treasurer, provided an update on the financials ending November 30, 2025. She noted that the Association has exceeded the budgeted amount for training revenues due to funds collected from the webinar. Naomi Atkinson made a motion to approve the financials, which was seconded by Deborah Walker-Reed. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of District 3 Director to fill the unexpired term of Vanessa Holiday. President Thompson read the names and of those who had expressed interest in the position. She then asked Ms. Walker-Reed to conduct a vote. Ms. Walker-Reed read the following names:

- Victor Aguilar, City Clerk, Marrow
- Shavala Ames, City Clerk, Stone Mountain
- Sandra Bryant, City Clerk, Brookhaven
- Diane White, City Clerk, Chattahoochee Hills

She then asked each Board member to verbally cast their vote. Deborah Walker-Reed made a motion to accept the vote of the Officers, 5-0, to approve Shavala Ames to fill the unexpired term of District Director, District 3. Sharon Nelson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to approve.

Officer's Reports

Sharon Nelson stated she has nothing to report.

Jan LeViner stated she still has District Director shirts and will bring them to Jekyll.

Marilyn Chastain stated she had a wonderful time at the District 2 meeting. District Director Yearwood gave a great presentation and there was a good turnout.

District Directors Reports

Jennifer Harrison, District 5 reported she had her first District 5 meeting and it was such a good meeting. There were questions and concerns prompting open discussions. She will be hosting the April meeting in Hoschton.

Committee Reports

Deborah Walker – Reed, Nominating Committee, read the slate of officers for 2026:

- President – Sharon Nelson
- Vice President – Marilyn Chastain
- Jan LeViner, Treasurer
- Mary King, Secretary
- District Directors (two year terms)
 - District 2, Sheila Cooper
 - District 4, Hayley Beaver
 - District 6, Annie Warren
 - District 8, Margaret Shelley
 - District 10, Dana Barfield
 - District 12, Shana Moss

President Thompson left the meeting due to a commitment. Vice President Nelson then presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Mark Massey, Membership/Mentor, stated there will be a joint event on Sunday evening, February 1, at the Courtyard by Marriott. The Committee is doing a fireside chat with a little bit of chew and drink.

Hayley Beaver, Hospitality Committee, stated they had a short meeting and solidified people who are going to sit at the table and welcome the new mandated clerks. She is going to put committee applications at the table to encourage people who are interested to sign-up. There will also be a Clerk dinner on Monday evening at Tortuga Jacks where there will be Clerks at the door to welcome everyone.

Deborah Walker-Reed, Education Committee, stated her committee has been quite busy with the tasks they were given at the retreat in 2025 and they have accomplished almost everything on the list. They were so happy to have the webinar on Onboarding Newly Elected Officials. The next webinar will be dealing with planning retreats and following through on retreats.

Mark Massey, IIMC, Region III, introduced Dr. Jal Ulrich, Assoc. Director of Professional Development, IIMC. Mr. Massey stated Dr. Ulrich is with us to answer any questions we might have regarding obtaining your CMC or MMC designation from IIMC. There was a lengthy discussion regarding points received from training and continuing education. Mr. Massey encourage anyone that is looking to obtain their IIMC certifications to reach out to Dr. Ulrich for guidance as she will be happy to meet with you or set a meeting, Dr. Ulrich stated there are benefits of getting your certification through IIMC as they are the first national/international organization to provide this type of certification as it extends beyond just your state as you are eligible to work in any state or international location with the certification. Vice President Nelson thanked Dr. Ulrich for all the information.

Shavala Ames, Social Media/Marketing, reported they have had a phenomenal year and appreciate all the assistance from each and everyone. She hopes to have a 2025 recap to send out shortly.

Pam Helton, GMA, stated she listed all the upcoming training on the agenda. Ms. Helton reminded everyone of the upcoming webinar, Retreat Planning, on January 29, 11:00AM and registration is open on the GMA website's event calendar. Ms. LeViner asked if we had dates for the conference in Athens. Ms. Helton stated it would be September 13-15, 2026.

Being no further business Marilyn Chastain made a motion to adjourn. Jan LeViner seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Vernice Thompson, President

Jan LeViner, Secretary