We begin the new year with a helpful Question and Answer Session at our January 9th Members’ Meeting. Questions focusing on dealing with family members and recent orders will be answered/discussed. GAPC President Traci Samuel will moderate and questions will be answered by Guardians in attendance. Come prepared for helpful information and to join in a lively discussion.

We look forward to seeing you Wednesday, January 9th, 11:30 a.m. at Cypress Palms in Largo. Please RSVP at our GAPC’s website. One CEU is provided for members in good standing.

MEMBERSHIP DUES
A friendly reminder that Membership renewals are due. Please check your profile on our website for accuracy and to see if your Membership is up-to-date.

ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATIONS
Contact Info.

P.O. Box 1826
Pinellas Park, FL 33780
(517) 256-0403
Info@GuardianAssociation.org

Monthly Calendar

**JANUARY 8, 11:30 A.M. ASSOCIATION MEETING**
Palms of Largo - CYPRESS PALMS Bldg., 400 Lake Avenue NE, Largo

**JANUARY 25, 9:00 A.M. GAPC NETWORKING BREAKFAST**
SEASONS’S ALF LARGO, 4175 E. BAY DR., CLEARWATER

**BOARD MEETING - DATES & TIMES ROTATE**
Contact BOD Secretary for specific dates/times.
Palms of Largo - REGAL PALMS Bldg., Verandah Room

**Please RSVP to Association Website**
**2019 Board of Directors**

**Officers**

- President ............................................................. Traci Samuel
- Vice President ...................................................... Amber Watkins
- Acting Treasurer ............................................... Keith Crosby
- Secretary ............................................................. Michelle Lowack

**Board Members**

- Lori Clark
- Marianne Fisher
- Timothy Perenich, Esq.
- Ha Dao, Esq.
- David Menneke
- Maria Winer

**Committees**

- **By-Laws Committee**
  Ha Dao, Esq., Chair
  Steve Hitchcock, Esq., Co-Chair

- **Conference Committee**
  Traci Samuel, Chair

- **Education Committee**
  Michelle Lowack, Chair
  Maria Winer, Co-Chair

- **Finance & Budget Committee**
  Traci Samuel, Chair

- **Legislative Committee**
  Ha Dao, Esq., Chair
  Steve Hitchcock, Esq., Co-Chair

- **Membership Committee**
  David Menneke, Chair

- **Public Relations Committee**
  Amber Watkins, Chair

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**Committee Meetings**

**By-Laws & Legislative Committee**

Meeting is normally held the first Wednesday, at Deeb Elder Law, P.A., 6675 13th Avenue N., Suite 2C, St. Petersburg. Please contact Deeb Elder Law for the date/time for the December meeting.

**Conference Committee**

Meets 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Meeting location is at Perkins Restaurant, 2626 Gulf to Bay Boulevard, Clearwater. Contact the Committee chair to confirm January meeting.

**Education Committee**

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. Meeting location is rotated between Maria's Adult Day Care, Seminole located at 7821 Seminole Blvd, Seminole and Home Care Assistance of Tampa Bay, located at 1530 N McMullen Booth, #D12, Clearwater. Contact the Committee chair to confirm January meeting.

**Membership Committee**

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m., Florida Family Cremations, 5840 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater. Contact the Committee chair to confirm January meeting.

**Public Relations Committee**

Meets immediately following GAPC Monthly Membership Meeting (2nd Wednesday of each month) at 1:15 - 1:45 p.m., Cypress Palms Assisted Living, 400 Lake Avenue, NE, Largo. Contact the Committee chair to confirm January meeting.

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**Association Communications**

P.O. Box 1826, Pinellas Park, FL 33780
(517) 256-0403
Info@GuardianAssociation.org
https://facebook.com/GuardianAssociationPinellas

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The Guardian Association of Pinellas County encourages all members and/or vendors to utilize PayPal for all transactions with the GAPC.

*You do not need to have an account to pay with PayPal.*
Happy New Year! 2019 is in full-swing!

A quick look back – December was packed with activities.

We had such great response to our "It’s a Wrap" event. In addition, we shared the festivities at our Member Holiday Lunch to ensure all who were interested, could take part in the fellowship which featured jumbo shrimp and prime rib.

The staff at The Palms went above and beyond to help create a joyous environment for networking at our monthly Association Meeting. We welcomed a record number of guests who were “checking us out”. Later that evening, approximately 120 GAPC members and guests were dressed to impress as they arrived at Bascom’s Chop House. Awaiting our guests were tables of generous door prizes and a buffet of hot and cold hors d’oeuvres that lined the length of the private dining room. The relaxed, elegant venue provided the perfect setting for everyone to get to know a little more about each other and connect with guests who have heard the buzz regarding GAPC’s growth and commitment we have for serving the Elder community. Many may have wondered why I missed this special event. I am beyond pleased to say that as these two aforementioned events were taking place, I was where I was most meant to be. I was with my daughter, son-in-law, and husband providing love and support and welcoming my beautiful new grandson into this world.

Back to business…In December, your new GAPC Board of Directors were sworn in by Steve Hitchcock. The new Board got right to work and spent the better part of a day at Seasons Largo taking part in the annual BOD summit. Big thanks to Jack Goodwyn for hosting us for this event.

I am honored to continue serving as your GAPC President, supported by Vice President Amber Watkins, Treasurer Keith Crosby, and Secretary Michelle Lowack. Each of your BOD will be serving on at least one GAPC committee along with several other GAPC members. Please visit the GAPC website for detailed information regarding specific committee meeting dates, times, and locations.

GAPC needs your involvement! It is my sincere hope that this year each of our GAPC members will decide to get involved with the committee that most interests him/her. Significant engagement, and working together will continue to strengthen GAPC and ultimately allow us to have an even greater impact on elders in need of guardianship in Pinellas County.

At our GAPC member meeting this Wednesday, you will meet the GAPC Chairs and Co-Chairs for each committee, please listen to the information and sign up to serve on a committee that “speaks to your heart”. I want to sincerely thank all of our Conference Sponsors and Conference Committee members who made our GAPC Annual 2018 Conference such a huge success. GAPC is building on that success and has already begun securing speakers, sponsors, and a venue for our GAPC Annual 2019 Conference (Fall 2019).

GAPC needs your input! If you have a speaker that you think would be of great benefit to our Conference attendees, please email Michelle Lowack at mlowack@homecareassistance.com for thoughtful consideration by your BOD.

Save the Date - GAPC Conference Committee will hold their kick-off meeting Tuesday, January 22nd from 11:30 am-12:45 pm at the Home Care Assistance office located at 1530 N. McMullen Booth Road, Suite D12. Additional Conference Committee details will be shared on Wednesday.

Again, Happy New Year! I know that by working together in 2019 we will accomplish great things for the benefit of Pinellas County Elders!

TRACI
Everyday Essentials

We had such a great response last year with our Everyday Essentials drive. We’re kicking it off again this year as we aim to help as many as possible in our senior community.

Please see the flyer below for more specific info.

The GAPC is collecting items for the indigent seniors in our community. Items needed include, but are not limited to the following:

- Shampoo
- Hairbrush
- Combs
- Soap
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Incontinence Products
- Body Wash
- Nail Polish
- Nail Polish Remover
- Greeting Cards (with stamp included on envelope)
- Tissues
- Cosmetics (powder, blush, lipstick)
- Costume Jewelry
- Lotion
- Aftershave
- Cotton Balls

Please donate new, unopened items. Bring your donations to our monthly luncheon or monthly networking breakfast.

If you know of a senior in need of Everyday Essentials, please email: eegapc@gmail.com.
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL GUARDIANS (OPPG)

The Office of Public and Professional Guardians (OPPG) has the statutory right and responsibility for professional and public guardians in Florida, per Section 744.2001.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Office of Public and Professional Guardians (OPPG) and the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptrollers, Division of Inspector General (IG), gives the Clerks’ Offices the responsibility to conduct investigations of allegations for professional and public guardians that have violated the provisions of Chapter 744, Florida Statutes, or the Standards of Practice established by OPPG.

When you receive a telephone call from the IG office, we may:
- Conduct an interview with you, either face to face or on the telephone.
- Contact your attorney of record for an interview.
- Request copies of documents, emails, invoices, etc.
- Contact family members, neighbors, or friends of the ward.
- Visit the facility, speak with the staff, and visit the ward.

Since October 2016, the Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Division of Inspector General (IG), has conducted and completed 38 investigations of professional and public guardians, with 26 of the investigations completed in 2018.

When OPPG refers an allegation to IG, the IG files a notice with the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court, if the allegation relates to the ward residing in Pinellas or Pasco, or with the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court, if the allegation relates to the ward residing in Hillsborough County. The notice lists the allegations, the name of the ward, and the professional guardian.

All investigations are confidential, sealed, and not subject to disclosure under the Public Records Laws of Florida.

The IG sends each completed investigative report to OPPG, and sealed copies of such reports are sent to the appropriate Judicial Circuit Court (Pinellas, Pasco, or Hillsborough). When an investigative report is completed, OPPG is authorized to take administrative action pursuant to Chapter 120, on the allegations related to the professional or public guardian.


Please note: If there is a topic you would like discussed in any of our upcoming monthly newsletter articles, please email it to:

aDiNatale@pinellascounty.org.

How to Contact Us:
If we can be of assistance, please call:
Division of Inspector General, PIU ....... 727-464-8371
Division of Inspector General, Fax ............ 727-464-8386
Probate Court Records ......................... 727-464-3321
Guardianship Hotline ............ 727-45FRAUD (453-7283)