

\$\$ MONEY TALK \$\$

The Alabama Journal of Government Finance



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Fall 2014

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FROM THE PRESIDENT...

As we enter the fall season, it brings me to a time of thankful reflection on the GFOAA organization as a whole. Only with the commitment of our sponsors, speakers, and volunteers have we been able to grow into the successful organization that we are today. Founded in 1984 and incorporated in January 1985, GFOAA has now been in existence for 30 years! Without the volunteerism of government finance professionals over the years, this organization would not be what it is today, a financially sound entity that:

- Promotes the use of efficient financial management systems by governmental organizations within the State of Alabama
- Improves the knowledge and skills of individuals concerned with governmental finance
- Promotes development of accounting, budgeting and financial reporting procedures in cooperation with the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), the Governmental Accounting Standards Board and all other organizations established with similar goals
- Provides a forum for discussion and analysis of financial charters and ordinances and all other subjects of mutual concern to public finance officials
- Devotes significant energy and resources to identify, create and provide training specifically designed to meet the unique needs of the public sector

This past August, we were able to experience one of those training events in Orange Beach at the Hampton Inn & Suites. Kelly Brendle served as conference chair and she and her conference committee did a great job with the schedule and events. The itinerary included a broad range of topics including: managing millennials, accounting, financial reporting, GASB update, economics and investments, pensions, as well as integrity and understanding people.

The next sponsored event by GFOAA along with the Alabama Society of CPAs and the Association of Government Accounts will be held from December 3rd and 4th in Birmingham, Alabama at the Birmingham Marriott Hotel. It will be the 27th Annual Governmental Accounting & Auditing Forum (GAAF). It too will include a wide range of topics for the training and development of the finance professional. You can still register by visiting our website and clicking on the events schedule.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

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In addition to the upcoming GAAF conference, GFOAA has two other training opportunities in the near future. First, a course is scheduled in January for the Certified Governmental Accounting Technician (CGAT) Program - ***Payroll*** (January 8, 2015). This course will be held at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. I highly encourage you to let all departments in your organization know about this class and the program overall. It is beneficial not only for staff working in the finance department, but also for staff in other departments that deal with finance related issues. Second, plan to attend our next ***Annual Conference*** that will be held in Auburn, Alabama from February 25–27, 2015. Allison Edge along with her conference committee is currently planning this training opportunity. Hotel reservations are currently available on the website: www.gfoaa.org.

Prior to the annual conference, the Board will be looking for individuals to fill vacant positions for the next fiscal year. If you are willing to volunteer for future opportunities and get involved with our organization, let me know as soon as possible. Serving in volunteer positions with GFOAA enhances the member experience in terms of networking and especially the friendships that develop over time.

In the summer newsletter, I announced the Board's decision to create a new website for our organization. GFOAA recognizes that one of our strongest ways to communicate information to our members, sponsors, as well as potential members and potential sponsors, is to have a strong, updated website that can serve as an outreach tool as well as a communicative device. I am pleased to announce that we are in the final stages of this new website. Some of the new features will include:

- Acceptance of credit cards for conference registrations and membership dues
- Online membership applications
- Online conference registration
- Members only login for profile updates

If you have any ideas for our new website, please feel free to contact me. Our website committee will be happy to review and consider those potential changes. We want to make this website an important tool for members to facilitate their professional development needs as individuals and for their organizations.

Until next time, I hope you enjoy the holiday season. If there is anything that GFOAA can do for you and your organization, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Melinda James Lopez
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2014 GFOAA SUMMER CONFERENCE ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA

The 2014 GFOAA Summer Conference was held August 20th through 22nd at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Orange Beach, Alabama. After a welcome by GFOAA President Melinda Lopez, the conference began Wednesday afternoon with a session titled "IT Security - Understanding and Mitigating the Risk." Other sessions presented Wednesday afternoon included "KPMG Integrity Survey 2013" and an interesting management view "Managing Millennials." A welcome reception was held at the Hampton Inn and Suites that evening.

Thursday held a full day of informative sessions beginning with "Unique Accounting and Financial Reporting Issues in Governments," "Pensions and Social Security," "A Commercial Card Perspective for the Public Sector," "Economics and Investment Markets - A Review and Outlook," and "The Detrimental Effects of Tax Fraud" rounded out the topics presented. For dinner, delegates, sponsors, and speakers were treated to a short trolley ride to the Cayman Grill. Located directly on the bay, the Cayman Grill provided a relaxing atmosphere after a long day of training.

Friday morning began with a GASB/SAS update and ended with an inspirational session titled "MAP out your Course." The Summer Conference always provides participants with a great opportunity to relax, renew friendships, and, of course, get much needed continuing education.

GFOAA strives to present relevant educational opportunities to its members at every conference. If there are topics you would like to have presented, please email them to mail.gfoaa@yahoo.com.



Conference Sponsors

BBVA Compass, Gold

Regions Corporate Trust, Silver

Nationwide, Silver

Beason & Nalley, Inc., Silver

Enterprise Technologies LLC, General

Mauldin & Jenkins, General

Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

GFOAA Quarterly Board Meeting

December 3, 2014
Birmingham, AL
Details TBA.

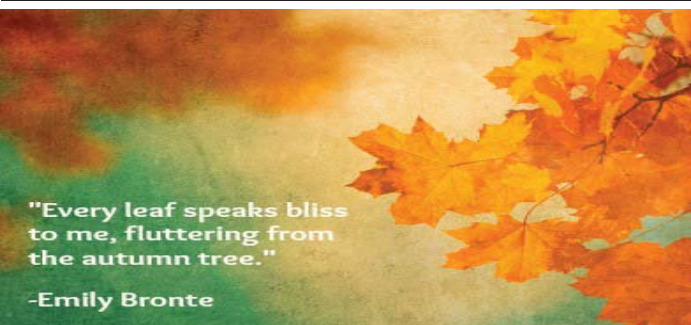
27th Annual Government Accounting and Auditing Forum (GAAF)

December 3–4, 2014
Birmingham Marriott
3590 Grandview Parkway
Birmingham, Alabama 35243

[Click here for GAAF registration and hotel information.](#)

GFOAA Quarterly Board Meeting

February 25, 2015
The Hotel at Auburn University and
Dixon Conference Center
241 South College Street
Auburn, Alabama 36830
Details TBA.



GFOAA 31st Annual Conference

February 25–27, 2015
The Hotel at Auburn University and
Dixon Conference Center
241 South College Street
Auburn, Alabama 36830



For accommodations:

<https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=1111807&hotelID=6493>

The room block will be available until February 5, 2015.

[Sponsor Registration Information & Forms](#)

Certified Government Accounting Technician

January 8, 2015—Payroll

All classes to be held at the University of Alabama
Bryant Conference Center
Tuscaloosa, Alabama from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Registration fee \$150.00
(Includes Lunch)

Registration forms available by clicking [here](#) or by
email to tcroom@tuscaloosa.com

QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
MAY 9, 2014

The Quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held May 9, 2014 at the Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building and Federal Courthouse in Montgomery. President Melinda Lopez called the meeting to order at 10:27 a.m. Minutes of the February 24, 2014 board meeting held in Mobile, Alabama were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report—In Treasurer Sarita Tapscott's absence, President Melinda Lopez gave the report.. No formal treasurer's report or budget documents were presented or reviewed. The bank balance is in excess of \$100,000 with approximately \$7,500 in the conference fund account. A laptop and printer for Ms. Moyer have been purchased from these funds and discussion centered on whether the Board should move some of the funds to a savings account. The members in attendance agreed to table this discussion until the August 2014 Board Meeting to have more discussion on the matter from other Board members who were not in attendance at the May meeting.

Administrative Assistant- Jamie Moyers reported that the laptop purchase was appreciated and she is presently working on updating the membership files from the annual conference event.

Public Information- Charles Clack reported that the quarterly newsletter will be sent out in mid-May which will highlight the agenda for the upcoming summer conference as well as the past annual conference. Charles will also post the CGFO notifications for renewal in the quarterly newsletter.

Certification Board and CGAT- Sarah Williams reported the upcoming CGAT summer conference that will be held in June 18 - 19, 2014 at the Staybridge Suites - East Chase in Montgomery. The University of Alabama Continuing Education continues to manage the CGAT course offerings and discussion centered on how best to advertise these course offerings to governmental entities throughout the State. Sarah Williams reported that all CGFO renewals were done except for two, Steve Richey and Sheila Williams-Hester.

Scholarships, Awards, and Service— Derek Reeves reported that two awards will be presented in 2014 to Tiffany Underwood and Rachel Taylor. A scholarship letter should be sent out to state universities in December with anticipation of scholarship applications to be received in January for the Scholarship Committee to

make recommendations at the annual conference in Auburn (February 2015).

Membership—Kelly Brendle asked that the Board consider a new membership packet with updates and possibly a certificate of membership be included. Kelly was going to explore the possibility of offering something to new members after membership application was processed and present at next Board meeting.

Education—Melinda reported that the annual conference was a success and thanked the Mobile Conference Committee as well as those who helped with the conference for their efforts. She also thanked the sponsors for supporting the conference and organization. There was discussion about the role of the Education Committee and the current conference fee schedule.

2014 Annual Conference—Relya Mallory reported that there were 94 registrants, 13 guests, and 15 sponsors that participated in the 2014 Annual Conference.

2014 Summer conference— Kelly Brendle gave an update on plans for the Summer conference. The conference will be at the Hampton Inn August 20-22, 2014.

New Business- Melinda Lopez reported that Marilyn Dozier has requested emeritus status since she retired in February 2014. The request was approved. Melinda Lopez reported that she would be hosting a breakfast for the national conference attendees in Minneapolis in May. Melinda asked that the Board plan to meet in July to review vendors who can provide professional organization websites to update the website so that membership and registration can be accessed online to make it easier for current and prospective members. Donna Cooper offered the BBVA Compass conference room and a meeting was planned for July 31, 2014 from 10 am to 3 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

For a complete copy of the minutes, contact Melinda Lopez or any of the committee chairs.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

APRIL 1, 2014—MARCH 31, 2015

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Please notify Jamie Moyers to change your address, or other pertinent information, at the following address:

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COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee shall promote and encourage membership in GFOAA and is responsible for the annual membership directory.

Government Relations Committee

The Government Relations Committee shall monitor and report on legislative action affecting governmental finance and promote intergovernmental cooperation.

Education Committee

The Education Committee shall establish, organize and promote educational programs within the membership.

Scholarship, Awards and Service Committee

The Scholarship, Awards and Service Committee is responsible for the administration of the scholarship and awards program. The committee is also responsible for implementing and monitoring service projects as assigned.

Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee is responsible for preparing the long-range plans to meet the organization's goals and objectives. The committee is also responsible for communicating the plan to each committee. The committee will serve as the monitoring entity for the committee projects associated with the strategic plan.

Government
Finance Officers
Association of
Alabama

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The Alabama Journal of Government Finance

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Government Finance Officers Association of Alabama is to provide a professional association for government finance personnel dedicated to enabling its members to provide quality professional service to their constituents with the highest level of integrity.

27TH ANNUAL GOVERNMENTAL
ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING
FORUM (GAAF) SEE PAGE 4 FOR
MORE INFORMATION.



**27TH ANNUAL GOVERNMENTAL
ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING FORUM**
December 3rd and 4th

Sponsored by The Association of Government Accountants, Government Finance Officers Association,
The Alabama Society of CPAs and Silver Sponsor AICPA Member Insurance Program

AICPA Member Insurance Programs