

\$\$ MONEY TALK \$\$

The Alabama Journal of Government Finance



Volume XIII

Issue IV

Winter 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

26th Annual Governmental Accounting and Auditing Forum 3

Marilyn Dozier Retires 3

Upcoming Events 4

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes 5

Cyber Security Outlook 6

Board of Directors and Officers 8

Committee Chairpersons 9

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Happy New Year! I hope you all were able to take a little time off over the Holidays to enjoy family and friends, and to reflect on the true reason for the season. As you can probably imagine, having a 3 year old in the house made our holidays livelier this year than they've ever been. Jackson was so excited, and we had a lot of fun watching him.

Don't you just love the start of a new year? There is just something special about being able to wipe the slate clean and restart anew. I am sure many of you made New Year's resolutions, and I hope one resolution you might have considered is to become more involved in GFOAA. Getting involved is a great way to meet your colleagues from around the state and help advance the public finance profession in Alabama.

I have heard it said before that a resolution without a plan is merely a wish. Sure, you can think to yourself that one day you'll take that trip to Europe. Or one day you'll organize those files that keep piling up in the corner. Or one day you'll start really saving enough money so that you can afford to retire early from your job. One day... We all have goals or plans, whether personally or professionally, for the things we want to accomplish in life.

Some of these are probably higher on the list than others, and we know a lot about what it will take to make those things happen. But even with the best of plans and all the details laid out perfectly, we have to understand the importance and the urgency of the One Day we are given...Today. If we simply start where we are, with what we have, and take those first steps, then other steps will often begin to fall into place as well. Of course, everything may not happen exactly the way we might have planned, but then we make adjustments and keep moving forward, step by step, toward reaching our goals.

One day...Today...that's all we are promised. Will you take today and make the most of it? Or will you spend today waiting for...one day? They are your goals. You decide. The Annual Governmental Accounting and Auditing Forum was held in Birmingham a few weeks ago, and was a huge success. GFOAA was well attended, and I hope all of you who were there enjoyed the sessions provided. Thanks so much to the past presidents of GFOAA who served on the GAAP planning committee this year. Our fall board meeting was held in conjunction with the GAAP as well, and I would like

Continued on page 2

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

(CONTINUED)

to thank Donna Cooper and BBVA Compass Bank for their gracious hospitality.

The GFOAA 30th Annual Conference is coming up February 24th – 26th in Mobile. The conference theme this year is *Highways and Bay Ways to Financial Stability*, and will be held at the historic Battle House Renaissance Hotel & Spa. Thank you to Linda Steele, Relya Mallory, Celia Sapp, and the conference planning committee for all the hard work you have put into planning this year's conference. Don't forget that this will be during Mobile's Mardi Gras season, so if you haven't already made your plans to attend, log onto the GFOAA website and register today!

As I close my final address, I would like to say that it has truly been an honor to serve as President this past year, and I thank you all for allowing me such an incredible opportunity. GFOAA is an outstanding organization and has a tremendous amount to offer to its members. I would also like to thank the Officers and Directors who served with me, as well as our Past Presidents, many of whom have offered continuous guidance and support. I have definitely learned a lot this past year, and I look forward to continuing to work with all of you in years to come. See you in Mobile!

Derek

Mardi Gras Parade Schedule During the Annual Conference Mobile, Alabama

Sunday, Feb. 23

2 p.m. - Mystics of Children

6:30 p.m. - Neptune's Daughters, Order of Isis

Monday, Feb. 24

6:30 p.m. - Order of Venus

Tuesday, Feb. 25

6:30 p.m. - Order of LaShe's



CONGRATULATIONS MARILYN DOZIER!



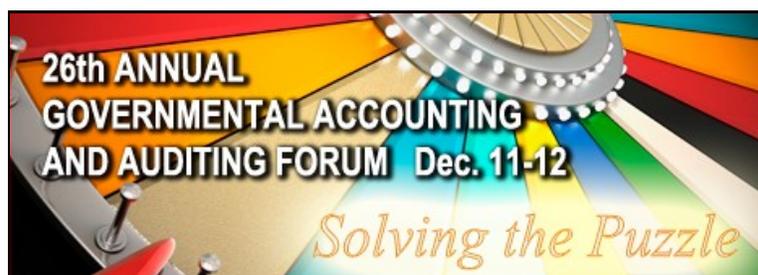
On January 31, 2014, longtime GFOAA member, Marilyn Dozier, retired with 38 years and 6 months of State service. In August 1975, Marilyn started working with the Department of Pensions and Security, now known as the Department of Human Resources. Her first job required her to travel around the state auditing day care centers. After eleven years at DHR, she transferred to the ABC Board as the supervisor of the Operations Section. Two years later she became the Chief Accountant for the agency. In December 1988 she was off to Public Health where she remained for eighteen years. During that time she played a part in the department's conversion to the new payroll system which we know as GHRS. With the renovation of the State Office Building/ Lurleen B. Wallace Building, the ADPH offices were moved to "Normandale". After 'toooooooooo many' years, the offices moved into the newly constructed RSA Tower. What a change in surroundings! For her final stop, Marilyn transferred to the Department of Finance in 2006 as the Director of the Division of Finance Accounting and Administration. Her office was responsible for the accounting of all the divisions of the Finance Department. Marilyn says she plans to travel, play with grandchildren, and spend more time with her parents, other family, and friends. To jumpstart her travels, her husband Larry has booked a trip to Alaska. Shortly after she returns from Alaska, she will be awaiting the arrival of a new grandbaby. Marilyn says she will be busy but she expects to have a lot of fun enjoying life!

Congratulations Marilyn. GFOAA wishes you the best in your retirement!

GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING FORUM BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

The 26th Annual Governmental Accounting and Auditing Forum (GAAF) was held December 11–12, 2013 at the Birmingham Marriott. The GAAF is co-sponsored by the Government Finance Officers Association of Alabama (GFOAA), the Montgomery Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA), and the Alabama Society of Certified Public Accountants (ASCPA). The forum was well attended and provided sixteen hours of Accounting and Auditing CPE.

With the GAAF, the GFOAA Annual Conference and the GFOAA Summer Conference, GFOAA offers its members forty eight hours of CPE per year.



UPCOMING EVENTS

GFOAA Quarterly Board Meeting

February 24, 2014
 The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa
 26 North Royal Street
 Mobile, Alabama 36602
 Details TBA



GFOAA 30th Annual Conference

*“Highways and Bay Ways
 to Financial Stability”*

February 24–26, 2014

The Battle House
 Renaissance Mobile Hotel and Spa
 26 North Royal Street
 Mobile, Alabama 36602

Click [here](#) for hotel reservation, conference registration, and sponsorship information.

CGAT Summer Conference

June 18–19, 2014
 Staybridge Suites—EastChase
 7800 EastChase Parkway
 Montgomery, Alabama 36117

For Program Information, contact Tracy Croom
tcroom@tuscaloosa.com.



GFOAA Summer Conference

August 20–22, 2014
 Hampton Inn and Suites
 25518 Perdido Beach Blvd.
 Orange Beach, Alabama 36561

Accommodations:

For reservations: 1-251-923-4400 (rate code is GFO) or
http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/M/MOBOBH-X-GFO-20140819/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG.

Conference rates: \$134/night (inland); \$149 (side view) and \$164/night (beachfront); the group block dates are August 19 thru 22. The special rates for Friday and Saturday nights, 8/22 and 8/23, are \$172 (inland)/\$187 (side)/\$202 (beachfront) per night. The hotel rate includes a Deluxe Continental Breakfast.

QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA
AUGUST 14, 2013

The Quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held August 14, 2013 in Orange Beach, Alabama. President Derek Reeves called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Minutes of the April 17, 2013 board meeting held in Montgomery, Alabama were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report—Carole Heggeman presented the annual financial reports for 2013. She also presented the financial statements as of July 31, 2013. The Treasurer's Report was approved. Sarah Williams presented a final report on the 2013 Annual Conference held in Montgomery.

Public Information—Charles Clack asked that any newsletter information be sent to him. He also asked for suggestions for member profiles or recognition for promotions or achievements be sent to him.

Certification Board and CGAT—Tracy Croom provided a CGAT update to Derek who presented it at the meeting. Tracy would like to have a CGAT conference in January or February of 2014. Sarah Williams mentioned that the CGAT class attendance is declining and the program is not breaking even. She proposed doing more advertising for the program. Another suggestion was adding classes. Sarah also proposed offering scholarships for participation in the program. Advertising in the League of Municipalities' publications and county commission publications was suggested. Sarah requested that an ad hoc committee be created to promote the CGAT program and GFOAA membership. This committee would move forward with ideas on promoting the programs and present something to the Board for vote in December. The committee members will be Sarah Williams, Charles Clack, Donna Cooper, Carol Heggeman, and Nancy Wilson. A budgeting class will be added to the CGAT program starting in 2014.

Scholarships, Awards, and Service—President Derek Reeves reminded everyone that there are two groups of scholarships to award at the 2014 Annual Conference because of the change in the due date for applications starting in December 2013.

Membership—Melinda Lopez asked for volunteers to update the membership brochure. There was discussion about the way membership fees are handled for those that do not attend the annual conference. A deci-

sion was made to send a dues invoice with the conference registration. Carole will work with Jamie to revise the conference registration form to include a dues payment option without conference registration. Two separate forms will be included in the mailing; one for conference registration and one for dues membership. The annual conference committee would determine who will handle the mailings. Jamie and the conference chair (or designated payment receiver) will work together to ensure that the monies are credited to the right account.

2013 Annual Conference

Sarah Williams reported 130 conference attendees, plus an additional 50 participants from our sponsors that represented 18 different entities. There were 2 platinum sponsors, 2 gold sponsors, 8 silver sponsors, and 6 general sponsors.

2013 Summer Conference—Melinda Lopez reported that there were 98 individual registrants and 32 sponsor/exhibitor participants. There were 11 exhibitors. BBVA Compass was the only Gold sponsor.

2014 Annual Conference—Celia Sapp reported that the committee is making headway. Linda Still will serve as chairperson. The committee is working on the agenda. She asked for speaker suggestions. Melinda Clack will handle the registration for this conference.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

For a complete copy of the minutes, contact Derek Reeves or any of the committee chairs.

2014 CYBER SECURITY OUTLOOK

As we look ahead toward the cyber threats facing us this year, some key challenges will result from the advancements in technology that are becoming part of our daily lives. From the Internet of Things to online currencies, devices and systems have never been more interconnected. Before adopting these new technologies, we need to understand the security implications and have appropriate layers of defense in place.

The Internet of Things

What is the Internet of Things? Put simply, the Internet enables connectivity from virtually any end-user device or thing. The latest trend is connecting things such as small appliances, refrigerators, personal medical devices, wearable health trackers and many other items.

One of the most common examples of how the Internet of Things impacts our daily lives is the automobile, which has become a sophisticated computer device. Researchers have demonstrated the ability to hack an automobile's systems to control the brakes, steering wheel, and even shut down the engine. Numerous discussion forums focus on the use of vehicle-to-vehicle (or V2V) technology, which will allow vehicles to talk to each other via wireless connectivity.

Bluetooth, which is a standard feature in many automobiles with options to include a personal hot-spot, can allow a modern smartphone to connect to the automobile's stereo system to receive continuous Twitter feeds, or a system that may allow a technician to provide assistance in case of emergencies. Researchers have discovered ways to inject malicious codes/programs through CD players of iPod connectors. So theoretically, an infected song on your iPod or CD, when played in your automobile, potentially can spread malicious code from the automobile's entertainment network to other components of the automobile without many restrictions.

In another example of how the Internet of Things can impact us is from a recent news story, which suggested electric tea kettles and other small appliances were able to exploit unencrypted WiFi and send data back to foreign servers.

Internet-connected devices that are able to process sensitive personal information tend to be high priority targets for cyber criminals. It will become increasingly critical in 2014 to protect these devices from unintended or unauthorized connectivity.

(Continued on page 7)

2014 CYBER SECURITY OUTLOOK

Bitcoins

A Bitcoin is a digital currency stored in a downloadable wallet on a user's personal computer or with an online wallet service provider. Each wallet has a unique identifier that allows users to transfer Bitcoins to other users' wallets. Bitcoin is a decentralized, peer-to-peer payment system, currently with no regulatory authority. It is gaining popularity, with mainstream businesses adopting it as an alternative form of payment or investment.

While the long-term use of Bitcoin is uncertain, for at least the near term in 2014, the increasing adoption and publicity will continue to draw the interest of cyber criminals who target Bitcoin users' wallets for theft, or compromise systems to generate Bitcoins via malware infection.

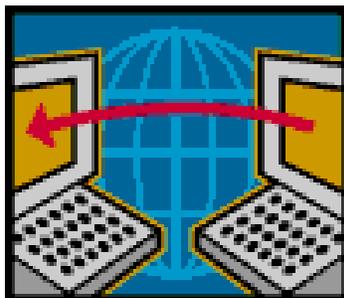
Mobile Transaction Risks

Every new smart phone, tablet or other mobile device provides an opportunity for a potential cyber attack. New features such as Near Field Communications (NFC), as well as AirDrop and Passbook for Apple, will continue to expand in 2014, increasing the opportunities for cyber criminals to exploit weaknesses. NFC and AirDrop allow for similarly configured smart phones to communicate with each other by simply touching another smart phone, or being in proximity to another smart phone. This technology is being used for credit card purchases, boarding passes, and file sharing, and will most likely be incorporated into other uses in 2014.

Risks of these technologies could include eavesdropping (through which the cyber criminal can intercept data transmission such as credit card numbers) and transferring viruses or other malware from one NFC/AirDrop-enabled device to another.

Summary

Before adopting any of the myriad of new technologies that are rapidly being deployed, it's important to understand the implications and risks. While interconnectivity can yield many benefits, the risk could outweigh the benefit if the devices, systems and technologies are not properly secured.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

APRIL 1, 2013—MARCH 31, 2014

President:

Derek Reeves
Office: 205-248-5175
dreeves@tuscaloosa.com

First Vice President:

Melinda James Lopez
Office: 205-444-7612
jamesm@ci.hoover.al.us

Second Vice President:

Kelly Brendle
Office: 334-242-6379
brendlek@dot.state.al.us

Secretary:

Allison D. Edge
Office: 334-501-7233
aedge@auburnalabama.org

Treasurer:

Carole Heggeman
Office: 251-574-6460
cheggeman@alabamacourt.net

Directors:

Keren Deal
Office: 334-244-3561
kdeal@aum.edu

Sarita Tapscott
Office: 256-426-6663
stapscott@alabastercityschools.org

Nancy Wilson
Office: 251-929-0346
nancy.wilson@cofairhope.com

Celia Sapp
Office: 251-208-7803
sappc@cityofmobile.org

Relya Mallory
Office: 251-208-7169
mallory@cityofmobile.org

Melissa Woods
Office: 205-739-7132
woodsm@ci.hoover.al.us

Associate Director

Donna Cooper
Office: 334-409-7264
Donna.Cooper@BBVACompass.com

Immediate Past President

Russell Raney
Office: 256-775-5806
rraney@cullmancats.net

Administrative Assistant

Jamie Moyers
Office: 334-312-2770
mail.gfoaa@yahoo.com

Public Information Officer

Charles Clack
Office: 334-353-8070
Charles.clack@revenue.alabama.gov

GFOAA Office Administration

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

P. O. Box 240574
Montgomery, AL 36124-0574
Phone: 334-312-2770 or
Email: mail.gfoaa@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Certification Board

Sarah Williams, CGFO

Office: 334-954-3907

Sarah_williams@almba.uscourts.gov

Education

Derek Reeves

Office: 205-248-5175

dreeves@tuscaloosa.com

Governmental Relations

Charla Doucet

Office: 334-242-7305

Cdoucet@ago.state.al.us

Membership

Melinda James Lopez

Office: 205-444-7612

jamesm@ci.hoover.al.us

Scholarships & Service

Russell Raney

Office: 256-775-5806

rraney@cullmancats.net

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**

P. O. Box 240574
Montgomery, AL
36124-0574

\$\$ MONEY TALK \$\$

The Alabama Journal of Government Finance

Editor: Charles W. Clack

57 Blue Pine Lane

Wetumpka, Alabama 36093

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.