

# \$\$ MONEY TALK \$\$

The Alabama Journal of Government Finance



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

A new year has begun and at the same time I am nearing the end of my tenure as your President. I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve you during the 2014-15 year. I would like to thank the board as a whole for their support, as well as our support staff and sponsors. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to promote GFOAA and to offer all of the educational opportunities for you.

Please plan to attend our **Annual Conference** that will be held in Auburn, AL February 25-27, 2015. Allison Edge, along with her conference committee, has done a great job planning this training event. The agenda includes a variety of subjects including fraud, municipal bankruptcy, GASB, an economic update, OPEB, plus several other topics of interest to our membership. The full agenda, registration and hotel information are located on our website at [www.gfoaa.org](http://www.gfoaa.org).

Speaking of our website, you may have noticed our new look. As promised, we have updated our site, as well as increased functionality. One of these new functions includes online registration for our annual and summer conferences. In order to register for these conferences, you must have a GFOAA ID and password. You can obtain this by going to our website and following the below steps:

1. From the Home Page, Click the "Login" button under the "Member Area Login".
2. On the next screen, click "Forgot Username/Password".
3. On the next screen, enter and submit your email address.
4. After you receive your username and password, you can register for the conference.
5. Once you login, please take a moment to update all of your membership information.

We are always looking for feedback and ways to improve our website. A change like this is a huge undertaking and I would like to thank our website committee, and in particular Sarah Williams for her tremendous help on this project. In order to send us suggestions or communicate other issues, click on the CONTACT GFOAA at the top of the page in the upper right corner of the site.

If there is anything that GFOAA can do for you and your organization, please do not hesitate to contact me. I hope to see you later this month in Auburn.

Melinda James Lopez  
205.444.7612  
[jamesm@ci.hoover.al.us](mailto:jamesm@ci.hoover.al.us)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### GFOAA Quarterly Board Meeting

February 25, 2015

The Hotel at Auburn University and  
Dixon Conference Center  
241 South College Street  
Auburn, Alabama 36830  
10:00 a.m.

### 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](#)  
[Conference Registration](#)

### GFOAA Quarterly Board Meeting

August 19, 2015

Hampton Inn and Suites  
25518 Perdido Beach Blvd.  
Orange Beach, AL 36561  
Details TBA.

### GFOAA Summer Conference

August 19–21, 2015

Hampton Inn and Suites  
25518 Perdido Beach Blvd.  
Orange Beach, AL 36561  
Details TBA.

### Certified Government Accounting Technician

April 2, 2015—General Ledger

April 23, 2015—Budget

May 21, 2015—Fund Accounting

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)

For additional registration information, please call  
(205) 348-4260.



*Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.*

*Helen Keller*

QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA  
AUGUST 20, 2014

The Quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held August 20, 2014 at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Orange Beach, Alabama. President Melinda Lopez called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Minutes of the May 9, 2014 board meeting held in Montgomery, Alabama were reviewed and approved.

**Treasurer's Report**—Treasurer Sarita Tapscott presented financial information for the organization as of the end of June 30, 2014. Ms. Tapscott received the audited review from 2013 and the Form 990 has been submitted and signed electronically to the IRS on July 30, 2014 by Ms. Tapscott.

**Administrative Assistant**- Ms. Moyer was unable to attend meeting. President Lopez reported on the membership comparison completed by Ms. Moyer from 2008 to 2014. Although membership declined by numbers from 2013 to 2014, the types of member level revenues actually increased from \$13,550 to \$14,440. President Lopez commented that this shows that our membership numbers are consistent and it was also noted that in 2008 there were 240 members and in 2014, there were 248. President Lopez will forward the report to the Chair of the Membership Committee, Kelly Brendle.

**Public Information**- Charles Clack asked the Committee Chairs to submit information to him about their areas by September 15, 2014 .

**Scholarships, Awards, and Service**-- Mr. Reeves was not in attendance. President Lopez mentioned that the scholarship application deadline for 2015-16 was December 15 and Dr. Deal said she would volunteer to get the scholarship information out to university department heads across the state for their dissemination to students.

**Membership**—Kelly Brendle stated that there is nothing to report at this time. Clarification of paper brochure would not be pursued at this time since Board looking at new website. Ms. Brendle and Mr. Clack will work together to welcome new members in future newsletters.

**Education**—President Lopez will ask for feedback from conference attendees to see if there is need for future education to benefit members at this conference.

**Governmental Relations**—Charla Doucet reported that recap of legislative will be updated to website after she identifies those legislative pieces that are of interest to our members at state and local level. New legislative group coming in 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in March 2015. Ms. Doucet contacted GFOA to ask for national information update and has not received any information to date.

**2014 Summer Conference**— Kelly Brendle reported that there are presently 6 sponsors with 17 attendees from the sponsors and 111 registered attendees from members/non-members. Finances should be sufficient budget-wise.

**2015 Annual Conference** - Allison Edge reported that the Auburn Committee is working hard on the annual conference and the theme is “Future of Government Finances” – speakers in related topical areas already being contacted.

**2015 Summer Conference**— Keren Deal will be the chair for the Summer 2015 conference. Ms. Williams did inquire into Perdido Beach Resort as an option for the conference and the costs were too high. Board members discussed the merits of changing/moving the conference and the Board felt it best to stay at the present location of Hampton Inn and Suites through 2015.

**Old Business**—Sponsorship structure and Disposal of GFOAA property were discussed.

**New Business**- Updating the GFOAA website was discussed. After seeing several vendor presentations, Star Chapter was chosen to develop and maintain the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.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

## **President:**

Melinda James Lopez  
Office: 205-444-7612  
[jamesm@ci.hoover.al.us](mailto:jamesm@ci.hoover.al.us)

## **First Vice President:**

Kelly Brendle  
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## **Second Vice President:**

Allison D. Edge  
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## **Secretary:**

Keren Deal  
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[kdeal@aum.edu](mailto:kdeal@aum.edu)

## **Treasurer:**

Sarita Tapscott  
Office: 256-426-6663  
[stapscott@mscs.k12.al.us](mailto:stapscott@mscs.k12.al.us)

## **Directors:**

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## **Associate Director**

Donna Cooper  
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## **Immediate Past President**

Derek Reeves  
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## **Administrative Assistant**

Jamie Moyers  
Office: 334-312-2770  
[mail.gfoaa@yahoo.com](mailto:mail.gfoaa@yahoo.com)

## **Public Information Officer**

Charles Clack  
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[Charles.clack@revenue.alabama.gov](mailto: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](mailto:mail.gfoaa@yahoo.com)

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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### Certification Board

Sarah Williams, CGFO  
Office: 334-954-3907

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### Education

Melinda James Lopez  
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[jamesm@ci.hoover.al.us](mailto:jamesm@ci.hoover.al.us)

### Governmental Relations

Charla Doucet  
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### Membership

Kelly Brendle  
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### Scholarships & Service

Derek Reeves  
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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.

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**Government  
Finance Officers  
Association of  
Alabama**

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*The Alabama Journal of Government Finance*

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*Wetumpka, Alabama 36093*

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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.