

\$\$ MONEY TALK \$\$

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FROM THE PRESIDENT...



As we near the end of the GFOAA year, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as GFOAA President for the second time. I have enjoyed serving in this capacity for the past two years, and I look forward to seeing some of the initiatives in place that the Board has worked hard on while I have been President. I consider myself fortunate to be able to serve the organization while building long lasting relationships with members. As I have said in the past, using your membership in GFOAA to network with other professionals in government finance is paramount. In my opinion, this is by far the most valuable aspect of membership. Use the GFOAA membership list to seek advice and suggestions from members that deal with some of the same issues that you do every day.

I hope to see you all soon at the 33rd Annual Conference that will be held at the newly renovated Hyatt Regency Birmingham – The Wynfrey Hotel. The conference, scheduled for February 22-24, will provide an excellent opportunity for professional development for government finance professionals. The conference committee is diligently working to finalize the details and has planned an agenda with topics including an economic update, investments management, debt management and leadership. The committee is also planning several social events that will provide opportunities for you to meet fellow GFOAA members and establish those valuable relationships. If you have not already registered, please visit www.gfoaa.org, review the agenda, and consider joining us for this great event!

The Annual Business Meeting luncheon will be held on February 23 in conjunction with the annual conference. The membership has several items to review and/or vote on during this meeting, including voting on a new slate of officers and directors for the 2017-2018 GFOAA year and voting on changes to the articles of incorporation and bylaws that are a result of the strategic planning session held in September 2016. I am very excited about the changes proposed that enhance the organization's mission and use of committees. In addition, the membership will have an opportunity to review the budget for the next year. If you are attending the conference, please consider attending the luncheon and staying for the business meeting portion.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT...

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In other professional development news, the new year for the Certified Governmental Accounting Technician (CGAT) program begins in April. The CGAT program is an excellent way to increase your knowledge of governmental accounting! The General Ledger class, scheduled for April 6, will familiarize attendees with knowledge of the general ledger from which financial statements are prepared. If you are interested in this course or another course in the program, please visit www.gfoaa.org to see the schedule. In addition, we are planning another CGAT conference for those that have graduated and earned the CGAT certification. The conference will be this summer in the Montgomery/Prattville area. More details will be on our website soon.

Also on the horizon is the 2017 Summer Conference. This year's conference, scheduled for August 16-18, will be held at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Orange Beach. I am chairing the committee this year and am excited to plan a conference that will provide professional development as well as networking opportunities for you. If you have not been to a GFOAA Summer Conference in the past, I encourage you to try it this year. It provides great training and development at a fantastic venue. Look for more details to come on www.gfoaa.org. Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve this great organization. I have thoroughly enjoyed it! I will once again close with a reminder that I would love feedback from you. Please share your thoughts and suggestions with me or any other board member or officer. Additionally, if there is anything that GFOAA can do for you or your organization, please let me know. If you have suggestions or ideas, please feel free to share those with me by email (aedge@auburnalabama.org) or by phone (334-501-7233). I hope to see you all at the conference in a few weeks!

Allison D. Edge
 (334) 501-7233
aedge@auburnalabama.org

GFOAA MEMBER IN THE NEWS

MELINDA LOPEZ



Hoover Mayor Frank Brocato announced the promotion of Melinda Lopez to become the city's new chief financial officer.

Lopez has been the city's director of information management and reporting and now officially will be chief financial and information officer, overseeing financial reporting and budgeting, accounting, purchasing and the information technology department.

An active GFOAA member, Melinda has served in many roles including GFOAA President for the 2014-2015 program year. Congratulations Melinda!

UPCOMING EVENTS

GFOAA 33rd Annual Conference

February 22-24, 2017

Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey Hotel
1000 Riverchase Galleria
Birmingham , AL 35244

For registration and other conference information,
[click here.](#)



GFOAA Quarterly Board Meeting

February 22, 2017

Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey Hotel
1000 Riverchase Galleria
Birmingham , AL 35244
9:30 am

CGAT

Certified Government Accounting Technician

April 6, 2017—General Ledger (core)

April 27, 2017– Budgeting (elective)

May 18, 2017—Fund Accounting (core)

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 information, click here.](#)

A promotional poster for the GFOAA 111th Annual Conference. The top left features the GFOAA logo and the text "Government Finance Officers Association". The main text reads "111th ANNUAL CONFERENCE MAY 21-24, 2017 DENVER, COLORADO". The background is a scenic landscape with a lake, mountains, and yellow wildflowers. At the bottom, a yellow banner says "Earn more than 20 CPE credits" and a green banner says "Go to www.gfoa.org to register today!".

111th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MAY 21-24, 2017
DENVER, COLORADO

Earn more than 20 CPE credits

Go to www.gfoa.org to register today!

QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LAKE GUNTERSVILLE STATE PARK, GUNTERSVILLE, ALABAMA
SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

The Quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held September 8, 2016 in Guntersville, Alabama. President Allison Edge called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Minutes of the April 29, 2016 board meeting held in Montgomery, Alabama were reviewed and approved. The Board also approved additional minutes from an electronic votes held May 13, 2016 and June 20, 2016.

Treasurer's Report—Melissa Woods distributed audited financial statements for fiscal year ending March 31, 2016. She presented financial information for the organization as of July 31, 2016, reporting net assets of \$168,143.21. These statements do not reflect the expenses from the summer conference. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Scholarships, Awards, and Service—Melinda Lopez stated that she is working on draft revisions of the scholarship application to bring uniformity to the process. Melinda discussed a few items on the application to get the board's input. She will incorporate the board's feedback and email the draft revision to the committee members for review. There was discussion about continuing to award Becker scholarships to GFOAA members. Keren Deal will have discussions with Becker for clarification.

Certification Board and CGAT – Sarah Williams reported that Jamie Moyers will send letters at the first of October for the CFGO certification renewals. Erika Sprouse reported on the CGAT summer conference held at AUM on July 11, 2016. GFOAA split the profit with AUM. Erika reported that feedback from the twenty attendees concerning the four speakers and the conference in general was very good. Ms. Williams mentioned that it is time to sign a new contract with UA for next fiscal year's CGAT classes. UA's contract extends through the January 2017 class.

Public Information – Charles Clack has designed a new brochure to promote the organization for distribution at networking events. Charles asked the board for information and suggestions for the newsletter, including promotions and other accolades. Sarah Williams suggested that a new section called "People Are Talking" be included in the newsletter. Charles is soliciting comments and quotes from other members not closely related to the board to include in this section.

Membership – Karen Deal reported that GFOAA has 240 active paid members and 17 emeritus members. There are 65 members who have not paid. The committee with work with Ms. Moyers to collect. There was discussion as to whether a firm can join GFOAA and all employees be members. Sarah Williams stated that GFOAA membership is for individuals. Dr. Deal mentioned that the board may need to consider having representation at the League of Municipalities instead of ASBO. The cost would be more but she feels that a larger and more diverse group would be reached. Dr. Deal also stated that she would like to do a graphic design to put in advertisement to reach out to new membership. Ms. Deal and Charles Clack will investigate this further.

Governmental Relations – Erika Sprouse stated that the state legislators are in special session. She also distributed a summary of the bills that have passed as of September 6, 2016.

Summer 2016 Conference – Sarita Tapscott circulated the evaluations from the summer conference for the board to review; comments were mostly positive. There was discussion about the quality of the sound system at the hotel. Another concern was the placement of the vendors and size of vendor displays. The room will comfortably fit eight vendors. The placement of the vendors will be based on a first come, first served basis. The 2017 conference committee will address both of these issues prior to the conference.

GAAF Conference – Melinda Lopez reported that speakers are needed for the GAAF conference on the following topics: economic update, ethics, GASB 77, motivational, internal controls, payroll best practices, cyber security, and purchasing and bid process.

Annual 2017 Conference—Sarah Williams read Travis Hulseley's report (paraphrased): The GFOAA 33rd annual conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency, Birmingham on February 22-24, 2016. Room rates will be \$96. Reservations must be made by January 22, 2017. The sponsorship and registration fees will be the same. The committee is working on a tentative agenda and hope to have all speakers confirmed within 45-60 days of the conference. The committee will contact potential local sponsors. Please send speaker suggestions to Mr. Hulseley.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57p.m.

For a complete copy of the minutes, contact President Allison Edge or any board member.

Inspiring Quotes by Martin Luther King, Jr.

- "Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."
- "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."
- "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."
- "Be a bush if you can't be a tree. If you can't be a highway, just be a trail. If you can't be a sun, be a star. For it isn't by size that you win or fail. Be the best of whatever you are."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

APRIL 1, 2016—MARCH 31, 2017

President:

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

First Vice President:

Keren Deal
Office: 334-244-3971
kdeal@aum.edu

Second Vice President:

Sarita Tapscott
Office: 256-426-6663
stapscott@mscs.k12.al.us

Secretary:

Kathy James
Office: 334-501-7234
kjames@auburnalabama.org

Treasurer:

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

Directors:

Elizabeth Howell
Office: 251-574-8399
ehowell@mobile-county.net

Barbi Lee
Office: 334-242-2997
barbi.lee@ethics.alabama.gov

Kathleen Baxter
Office: 334-242-4857
kathleen.baxter@finance.alabama.gov

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

Cathy C. Hoekenschnieder
Office: 256-427-5087
cathy.hoeken@huntsvilleal.gov

Erika K. Sprouse
Office: 334-501-7235
esprouse@auburnalabama.org

Associate Director

Mike Diehl
Office: 850-466-4053
mike.diehl@suntrust.com

Immediate Past President

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

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

Allison D. Edge
Office: 334-501-7233

aedge@auburnalabama.org

Government Relations

Charla Doucet
Office: 334-242-7305

Cdoucet@ago.state.al.us

Membership

Keren Deal
Office: 334-244-3971

kdeal@aum.edu

Scholarships & Service

Melinda James Lopez
Office: 205-444-7612

jamesm@ci.hoover.al.us

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

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.

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The Alabama Journal of Government Finance

Editor: Charles W. Clack

57 Blue Pine Lane

Wetumpka, Alabama 36093
