To say that we are in the Dog Days of Summer would be an understatement. Is it just me or is it hotter than usual? Adding to the heat are the constant demands of being government finance professionals. It’s a very busy time of year. Whether you are developing a budget for the next fiscal year or working on special projects that you saved for the summer, we are all extremely busy and stretched very thin. The days of old when summer was the “slow” time of year is no longer the case. There is no rest when we must prepare for the future while reflecting on the past.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) conference, held May 31 – June 3 in Philadelphia, concentrated on exactly that. Innovation and resilience, two very important concepts in today’s government environment, were the themes of this year’s conference. The conference featured sessions focused on improving governments, as well as improving individuals as government finance professionals. Whether your interest is resiliency of government, changes in accounting and financial reporting, new technology, or debt and investment strategies, the conference had just the topic for you. I attended many sessions that opened my eyes to innovative thinking, not only for my government, but also for me personally. GFOA does a great job of offering topics that are relevant and interesting. If you are interested in reviewing the agenda and purchasing recorded copies of the presentations, visit www.gfoa.org. I also enjoyed the annual GFOAA breakfast held during the conference. We had 18 attendees who enjoyed great food and excellent networking. I appreciate everyone that worked this event into their busy conference schedule!

Don’t forget that the Summer Conference is right around the corner! This great opportunity for education and professional development will be held August 19 – 21 at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Orange Beach. Keren Deal, GFOAA’s 1st Vice President, is chair of the conference committee and has a great lineup of topics and speakers. For more information on the conference agenda, please visit our website at www.gfoaa.org.

GFOAA also has professional development opportunities coming soon for the Certified Governmental Accounting Technician program. The Accounts Payable class will be held on Thursday, August 27 at the University of Alabama – Bryant Conference Center. Also on the calendar is the Billings-Accounts Receivable class that will be held on Thursday, November 5 in the same location. For more information on these classes, please visit www.gfoaa.org.

Continued on Page 2.
Mark your calendars! The 32nd Annual Conference will be held on the other side of the state... Tuscaloosa! The conference is scheduled for February 3 - 5, 2016 and will be held at a brand new hotel, the Embassy Suites Tuscaloosa Downtown. The room block is already available and reservations can be made via a link on the GFOAA website. Conference registration should be available later in the fall, and I am excited to see what the committee has in store for the agenda.

I will close with a reminder that I would love feedback from members. The organization’s mission can be enhanced and improved by your suggestions. Don’t doubt the value of your input and ideas. Every idea and suggestion will be heard and used for decision making purposes. 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). Enjoy the remainder of your summer and I look forward to seeing you in Orange Beach in August!

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

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**Certified Governmental Accounting Technician (CGAT) Program**

GFOAA offers a Certified Governmental Accounting Technician (CGAT) Program to improve the professional, administrative and fiscal skills of the participants through a series of courses in the areas of General Ledger, Fund Accounting, Purchasing/Accounts Payable, Payroll and Billings/Accounts Receivable. To participate in the CGAT program, a qualified candidate must have a high school diploma or GED and have an interest in governmental accounting.

Currently, there are 254 graduates from throughout the state. The participants are from local municipalities, county governments, and school systems.

To be certified, a qualified participant must complete 24 hours of study consisting of two core courses and two elective courses taken within two (2) years of acceptance to the program. The offered courses are **General Ledger** (Required Core); **Budgeting** (Elective); **Fund Accounting** (Required Core); **Purchasing/Accounts Payable** (Elective); **Billings/Accounts Receivable** (Elective) and **Payroll** (Elective). The courses are held at the University of Alabama, College of Continuing Studies, in Tuscaloosa.

For additional information, please visit the CGAT section of our website at [www.gfoaa.org](http://www.gfoaa.org) or contact the CGAT Director, Ms. Tracy Croom, [tcroom@tuscaloosa.com](mailto:tcroom@tuscaloosa.com).
Upcoming Events

GFOAA Summer Conference
August 19–21, 2015
Hampton Inn and Suites
25518 Perdido Beach Blvd.
Orange Beach, AL 36561
Click here for more information.

GFOAA Quarterly Board Meeting
August 19, 2015
Hampton Inn and Suites
25518 Perdido Beach Blvd.
Orange Beach, AL 36561
Details TBA.

GFOAA 32nd Annual Conference
February 3–5, 2016
Embassy Suites Hotel Downtown
2410 University Blvd.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
Click here for more information.

Certified Government Accounting Technician
August 27, 2015—Purchasing/Accounts Payable
November 5, 2015—Billings/Accounts Receivable
January 7, 2016—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)

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

Don’t Miss the Summer Conference at Orange Beach!
Early Bird Rate Ends Soon!

GFOAA Quarterly Board Meeting
February 3, 2016
Embassy Suites Hotel Downtown
2410 University Blvd.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
Details TBA.
The Quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held February 25, 2015 at The Hotel at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. President Melinda Lopez called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Minutes of the December 4, 2014 board meeting held in Birmingham, Alabama were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer’s Report—Treasurer Sarita Tapscott presented financial information for the organization as of the end of January, 2015. The overall balance of the account was $185,115.36 before payment of annual conference fees, scholarship funds, and other organizational expenses. Ms. Tapscott presented the amended proposed budget for 2014-15 which included an increase in expected revenues of $13,880 with a corresponding decrease in expenditures of $11,224 with the majority of the increase in expenditures due to the CGAT program cost increase. Discussion from the Board centered on the purchase of a laptop for the Treasurer and it was agreed that a laptop was necessary for the Treasurer as well as would assist in reporting from year to year when passed on to the incoming Treasurer at year end.

Public Information—Charles Clack asked the Committee Chairs to submit information to him about their areas in order to prepare the next quarterly newsletter. He will present a deadline for newsletter submissions at the May quarterly meeting.

Scholarships, Awards, and Service—Derek Reeves stated that three scholarships were awarded this year – two from AUM and one from Troy. All three students will be at the business luncheon Thursday.

Education—President Lopez mentioned that a change in procedures for conference planning should be considered regarding speakers who are from private sector as to topic coverage and sponsorship. Discussion centered on conference planning and the members of the Board agreed that the goal for conference planning will be to fill schedule with paid sponsorship speakers as priority on relevant topics to the audience. For Alabama private entities to present at our training events, a minimum level of general sponsorship is expected effective January 2016.

Certification Board and CGAT—Sarah Williams reported that there were 33 CGFO certifications renewed with no revocations. President Lopez mentioned that there were six CGAT courses scheduled for the 2015 year. Ms. Williams reported that numbers dropped in 2010-11 year, however, have steadily increased in the last few years.

Governmental Relations—Ms. Doucet was not in attendance, however, President Lopez reported that Ms. Doucet had submitted several Legislative Acts that were passed by the Alabama Legislature recently and we will include those on the GFOAA website for member usage when the new website is operational.

Executive Committee—President Lopez presented the conference call minutes from the Executive Committee with a slate of officers and directors chosen for the 2015-16 year. That slate will be presented to the membership. Contracts were also reviewed by the Executive Committee and a change for the review of the financial reports was approved. Star Chapter change and credit card submissions are now accepted online.

2015 Annual Conference—Allison Edge reported that there were 99 attendees registered for the annual meeting with 16 sponsors – 6 of those were annual sponsors and 5 of the 16 sponsors were gold level sponsors. A full slate of speakers was scheduled and Ms. Edge mentioned the help from the conference committee in Auburn in putting together the conference as well as handling registration and post-conference evening activities.

2015 Summer Conference—Keren Deal reported that the conference dates are August 19-21, 2015 in Orange Beach, Alabama and the hotel contract has been signed. She presented a tentative schedule of speakers for the conference and mentioned that a planning trip would be scheduled for early May by the conference committee to work out specifics with the hotel and caterer.

Annual 2016 Conference—Derek Reeves reported that the 2016 Annual Conference is scheduled for February 3-5, 2016 at the newly constructed Embassy Suites in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Tracy Croom has agreed to be Conference Chair and the committee is working on the speakers and will present more information at the May and/or August board meeting.

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**GAAF 2015 Conference** - President Lopez reported that GFOAA will be the lead organization for the 2015 GAAF Conference and Russell Raney will be the Chair. Derek Reeves and Melinda Lopez will both be serving on the planning committee as well.

**Old Business**

**Master Address List** - President Lopez and Melissa Woods are working on the master address list from GAAF 2013 participant list; finance director list; CSFO from AASBO; State of Alabama CFO list. This is a work in process.

**GFOAA Website** - President Lopez reported that the new website with StarChapter was operational and mentioned that both she and Sarah Williams had worked many hours to make sure the website went live in time for conference registration for the annual conference. President Lopez mentioned that we had entered into contract with Ashly Gallagher-White to assist in any future changes to the website and the contract was approved by Board on February 9, 2015.

**New Business**

**Emeritus Status** - Marcena Bryson and Paul Kelly submitted paperwork to be recognized as Emeritus members of GFOAA. Their membership information was verified by Ms. Moyer and Kelly Brendle and the requests were approved.

**Change Signatures on Credit Card Bank Account** - President Lopez asked for discussion from the Board regarding the issues of having to change the signature card several times throughout the 2014-15 year due to paperwork issues by present financial institution and the Board felt it was time for a change of financial institutions. The Board agreed that BBVA Compass would be the banking institution for the 2015-16 year forward and would handle the checking and credit card activities of GFOAA.

**Fiduciary Liability or Directors and Officers Liability Insurance** - President Lopez asked what the Board members felt about need for liability insurance for the Board Directors and Officers. Donna Cooper is going to research this issue further and present information at the May board meeting.

**Inclement Weather Policy** - President Lopez reported that there were several conference cancellations at the annual conference due to weather issues in northern Alabama. Discussion centered on how to handle this for future events. The Board agreed that conference registrations would be considered on a case-by-case basis and that if a person were unable to attend for inclement weather issues, no refund would be issued, however, the individual could attend the next GFOAA conference. The policy carried unanimously.

**Recognition of Past Presidents**

Charles Clack, Derek Reeves and Sarah Williams were recognized and thanked for being in attendance.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

**APRIL 1, 2015—MARCH 31, 2016**

**President:**
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**Second Vice President:**
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**Secretary:**
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**Treasurer:**
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woodsm@ci.hoover.al.us

**Directors:**
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Kathleen Baxter  
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Kathy James  
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**Associate Director**
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Donna.Cooper@BBVACompass.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

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**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

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<th>Certification Board</th>
<th>Governmental Relations</th>
<th>Scholarships &amp; Service</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Williams, CGFO</td>
<td>Charla Doucet</td>
<td>Melinda James Lopez</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Sarah_williams@almba.uscourts.gov">Sarah_williams@almba.uscourts.gov</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Cdoucet@ago.state.al.us">Cdoucet@ago.state.al.us</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jamesm@ci.hoover.al.us">jamesm@ci.hoover.al.us</a></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allison D. Edge</td>
<td>Keren Deal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office: 334-501-7233</td>
<td>Office: 334-244-3971</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:aedge@auburnalabama.org">aedge@auburnalabama.org</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:kdeal@aum.edu">kdeal@aum.edu</a></td>
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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.
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.