

\$\$ MONEY TALK \$\$

The Alabama Journal of Government Finance



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Summer 2009

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FROM THE PRESIDENT...

After a visit to the beach, it's hard to believe that we live in a material world.
-Pam Shaw

Today was a beautiful day on the Gulf Coast of Alabama! As governmental employees we all probably attend ribbon cuttings from time to time, but I know that I am envious for the one I attended today. Today was the ribbon cutting at the new and improved Gulf State Park Fishing Pier. At 1520 feet, Alabamians can now boast that we have the longest pier in the Gulf of Mexico. It is a beautiful facility in a magnificent setting and the fish (big ones) are already biting. Put a visit on your "to do" list!

The National GFOA Conference in Seattle was a productive experience. Certainly we are all facing challenging times and it helps to share experiences and ideas. While we are still very conservative thinkers, there do seem to be some promising indicators that recovery is drawing closer. Seattle was a wonderful place to visit at

that particular time of year too. It was daylight from about 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and the streets were very pedestrian friendly. Temperatures were a fantastic 60 to 75 degrees and amazingly for the area, there was no rain during the week. If you ever are presented the opportunity to visit, I highly recommend taking it.



Our Summer Conference is fast approaching! The schedule of speakers promises pertinent, interesting information for us and I hope that everyone is looking forward to coming. If you are wavering in your decision to come to the beach for a few days, read the quote I started off with. You know that

it is true. The beach just has that affect on one, whether they are an artist or an accountant. Hope to see you there!

Clara

CERTIFIED GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN (CGAT) PROGRAM

Since the last CGAT news article, many exciting CGAT events have taken place....

Thanks to the recruitment efforts of each of you, the CGAT program continues to grow and train clerks. Since its inception, the CGAT instructors have taught and/or provided refresher courses to 818 participants. No longer are our participants from the five largest cities in Alabama, the word is spreading and we have trained clerks from small rural towns, school systems, county governments, water authorities, and clerks from surrounding states (yes, states such as Mississippi and Georgia). We often hear that the GFOAA sponsored CGAT classes provide excellent and affordable training for clerks with all types of backgrounds.

On April 9th GFOAA kicked off the sixth year of the Certified Governmental Accounting Technician Program with the General Ledger course taught by Dr. Edward Kamnikar at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. The class was well attended with 36 students familiarizing themselves with the “study of ledgers”. On June 4th, many of the students returned to Tuscaloosa to further familiarize themselves with the process of recording financial information into funds at the Fund Accounting course taught by Dr. Judith Kamnikar. These required core courses have proven to be very informative for the participants as evidenced in their test results and for the first time both classes were approved for accounting and auditing continuing education units.

The GFOAA 5th Annual CGAT Continuing Education Conference was held on June 17th and June 18th in Montgomery at the Staybridge Suites. This year participants attended sessions on: “Developing a Job Ready Workforce” taught by Amy Brabham & Sarah Horton, Governor’s Office of Workforce Development; “Available Stimulus Dollars” led by Bill Johnson, ADECA Director; “Identity Theft Prevention” taught by Monica Sheeler, Office of the Attorney General; “Interstate Commerce & Sales” presented by Deborah Lee, Alabama Department of Revenue; “Bankruptcy Basics” taught by our very own Sarah Williams, Office of the US Bankruptcy Administrator; “Are Alabama Banks Safe” led by John Harrison, Alabama Banking Department Director; “Dashboards



for Government Reporting” led by Billy Cox, Aldridge Borden & Company; “Alabama Education Update” led by Cynthia Brown, Alabama Department of Education Director of Curriculum; and received an “Alabama Bid Law Update” from Tracy Roberts, Alabama League of Municipalities.

The conference provided the participants with 12 CGAT cpe units and was be very informative for the participants.

As you can see, GFOAA is offering many new training opportunities for your staff members in all areas of governmental accounting. Please continue to help us by encouraging your staff’s participation in the exciting CGAT training program. To date, we have 145 CGAT certificate holders. The Accounts Payable CGAT class will be held on August 20th at the University of Alabama Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa to be taught by Penny Smith, Deputy Finance Director/Deputy Treasurer for the City of Auburn. Her teachings will concentrate on techniques used to record and generate payments to specific companies or individuals for products or services that have been purchased on credit by your entity. To learn more about GFOAA’s CGAT program please visit our website at www.gfoaa.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CGAT Classes



August 20, 2009—Purchasing/Accounts Payable
 October 29, 2009—Billing/Accounts Receivable
 January 14, 2010—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 at www.gfoaa.org or by email to tcroom@tuscaloosa.com

GFOAA Summer Conference



August 19–21, 2009
 Orange Beach Community Center
 27235 Canal Road
 Orange Beach, AL 36561

*** Evening social functions will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn
 23092 Perdido Beach Blvd.
 Orange Beach, Alabama 36561
 Hotel Reservations 1-888-644-5866

New Email Address

The general email address for GFOAA has changed. Please use GFOAA@aol.com for all future emails to GFOAA.

GFOAA Quarterly Board Meeting

August 19, 2009
 Orange Beach Community Center
 27235 Canal Road
 Orange Beach, AL 36561
 Details TBA

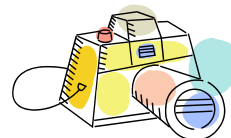
22nd Annual Government Accounting and Auditing Forum

December 2-3, 2009
 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. 16 hours CPE
 Birmingham Marriott Hotel
 3950 Grandview Parkway
 Birmingham, AL 35243
 Details TBA

If you have any old pictures from previous GFOAA events, please send them to Charles Clack via email to Charles.clack@revenue.alabama.gov. The pictures will be put on the digital picture frame that will be displayed at all future GFOAA events. If you are unable to email the pictures, you may send them to

*Charles Clack
 57 Blue Pine Lane
 Wetumpka, Alabama 36093*

If you wish to have your pictures returned to you, please indicate so when you send your pictures.



QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

AUBURN, ALABAMA

FEBRUARY 25, 2009

The Quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held February 25, 2009 in Auburn, Alabama. President Clara Myers called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the December 3, 2008 board meeting at The Summit Club in Birmingham, Alabama were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented by Russell Raney. Mr. Raney also presented a budget for the next year. Contact Russell Raney at 256-734-2233 or rraney@cullmancats.net for copies.

Public Information

Charles Clack reported that the digital picture frame is working and is on display at the conference registration table.

Certification Board

Sarah Williams provided the report. The first item reported was the status of the CGFO renewal. The renewal year is October 1 – September 30. We have 50 certificate holders and four of these individuals have not responded to the first and second reminder letters. We plan to send a revocation letter to them that their certificates will expire March 31, 2009. Otherwise, Charles Clack will post the revocations in the upcoming newsletter. Williams also proposed to change the Certification Board's charter to make the CGAT Director a member of the Certification Board and to specify that staggered terms will not apply to this Board slot.

Scholarships

Penny Smith relayed that two or three of our scholarship recipients would be present at the business luncheon tomorrow.

Governmental Relations

Charla Doucet indicated that the Alabama Legislature is back in session. Doucet said she had copies of the first readings reports for all members of the committee present to review. Sarah Williams asked if there was a link to the information. Doucet indicated that information was available through the legislative web site.

Annual Conference

Penny Smith reported 83 members have registered and 10 to 12 guests have registered. There are 17 vendors/sponsors for the conference.

Summer Conference

Charles Clack reported that the conference would be held on August 19, 20, and 21, 2009. The conference is scheduled at the Orange Beach Community Center. All group meetings, breaks, and lunch meals will take place at the Center. Our host hotel will be the Hilton Garden.

2010 Annual Conference

The 2010 annual conference will be held in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The scheduled dates for the conference are March 3, 4, and 5, 2010.

Contact Clara Myers or the committee chairs for full copies of minutes or committee reports.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

APRIL 1, 2008—MARCH 31, 2009

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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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.