



# **\$\$ Money Talk \$\$**

*The Alabama Journal of Government Finance*

**Volume IV**

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**Government Finance Officers Association of Alabama**

## **20<sup>th</sup> Annual GFOAA Conference Tuscaloosa, AL February 29-March 2, 2004 Is a Success!**



The 2004 GFOAA conference was held in Tuscaloosa February 29th to March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The conference attracted 123 paid registrants and 23 sponsors, including three that hosted individual events. It is estimated that approximately 200 people including speakers, sponsors and spouses attended at least one conference function. The Sunday night reception was held in the Museum of Natural History in Smith Hall on the University of Alabama campus.

The list of conference speakers included Judy Kamnikar, Robert Smith, Charles Nash, Ethel Hall, Hobby Presley, Brian Kennedy, James Breeding, Gerald Durr, Bob Young, Kay Ivey, Barry Strock, Hugh Evans and Jack Harris.

The conference qualified for sixteen continuing education credits. All paid participants received credit for their 2003-2004 membership dues. The special guests that were recognized at the annual business meeting included Robert Strickland (he has prepared all of the CGFO certificates), the past presidents, CGFO recipient Susan Nail, three scholarship recipients and the annual GFOAA award winners.

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## From the Past President.....

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as the GFOAA president for the past year. The experience allowed me the opportunity to work with many of my colleagues throughout the state and for that I am truly grateful. I am pleased to report that with the help of some very special officers, directors and committee members, we have been able to complete all of the goals that were set for this fiscal year. Some of our major accomplishments include:

- Increased membership;
- Increased attendance at the Annual Conference;
- Provided new member certificates to all new members at the Annual Conference
- Increase scholarship recipients;
- Updated the CGFO testing materials;
- Developed a storage retention plan;
- Distributed the GFOAA Administrative Manual to all directors and officers; and,
- Introduced the Certified Governmental Accounting Technician (CGAT) Certification Program.

I am thankful for all of the hard work that each committee performed to make this year so successful. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Dr. Judith Kamnikar and Dr. Ed Kamnikar for all of their support and guidance throughout the year. I respect and appreciate their leadership and continue to be thankful for all that they have meant to GFOAA and me. Also, I would like to thank my director and friend Mike Wright for his support during some pretty hectic times.

Our membership is very fortunate to have an incredible team of Officers and Directors to lead us during the upcoming year. Steve is very dedicated to continuing the standard of excellence that was adopted by this organization at its inception in 1985. I am confident that with the help and support of all of our members, this Board will lead us to new heights.

Thank you to each and everyone for your support during this past year!

Tracy



## From the President.....

I would like to offer my thanks and gratitude to Tracy Croom, the Officers, Directors, and Committee members for another great year. The organization achieved most all of its goals established for the year. I am honored to serve as your president for the 2004-2005 year and humbled by the many presidents who have served before me. It is my goal to see that the organization continues its tradition of excellence serving the membership and striving to improve financial integrity in public service during my year to serve as your president.

On behalf of GFOAA, I wish to express our thanks to Mike Wright and the entire Annual Conference Committee for an outstanding conference. While I was unable to attend the many social events hosted at the conference, I understand they were enjoyable. The program materials were informative and well presented and the facilities and food were excellent. Birmingham will be hard-pressed to match in 2005 the attendance and excellence of the Tuscaloosa's 20th Annual conference.

For those of you who missed the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, please remember to renew your GFOAA membership. Registration forms can be obtained from the website. Also, please remember to check the website regularly for the calendar of meetings and continuing education program dates.



GFOAA has a site visit planned in Anniston on

May 4<sup>th</sup> and the 2004 Summer Conference will be held at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Mississippi



on July 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. I hope to have a Summer Conference registration form posted on the website soon for your convenience. I look forward to seeing you in Biloxi.

Steve



# Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting February 29, 2004

The Four Points by Sheraton Hotel  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

The GFOAA Board of Directors meeting was held February 29, 2004 at The Four Point by Sheraton Hotel in Tuscaloosa.



Business conducted included approval of the Minutes of December 10, 2003.

Tracy Croom distributed the following financial reports for Bill Flowers: 1) Receipts, Disbursement and Change in Resources; 2) Budget and Expenditures April 1, 2003 through February 29, 2003; and 3) Proposed Budget April 1 through March 31, 2005. (contact Bill Flowers, Treasurer, at 334-242-6362 or [flowersbi@dot.state.al.us](mailto:flowersbi@dot.state.al.us) for copies).

**Education Committee** – Donna Tidmore, Chair  
President Croom recognized the members of the committee and expressed appreciation for their work on the Certified Governmental Accounting Technician Program (CGAT). She also stated the program was ready for introduction at the annual meeting.

**Certification Committee** – Fran Copeland, Chair  
Tracy Croom reported on behalf of Ms. Copeland that Ms. Susan Nail will be recognized for receiving her CGFO at the annual business meeting.

**Governmental Relations** – Gene Stabler, Chair  
Mr. Stabler reported bills having a possible interest to GFOAA members forwarded to Lisa Kamnikar for posting to the web site..

**Membership** – Steve Boone, Chair  
Mr. Boone reported the new membership book was included in everyone's registration packet for the annual conference.

**Public Information** – Sherry Gurganus, Chair  
President Croom reported on behalf of Mrs. Gurganus that the list serve was used to e-mail the newsletter after a minor problem was resolved. Ms. Croom expressed her appreciation for Mrs. Gurganus' work she performs for GFOAA and informed the Board that Ms. Gurganus did the work

on the new member certificates and the brochures for the new CGAT program.

**Scholarship and Service** – Judy Kamnikar, Chair  
Dr. Kamnikar brought up two recommendations for changes to the Innovations in Government Finance for consideration at the May Board Meeting. First, change the categories to small (less than 50,000 population), to medium (50,000 or more) and to large (which would be the four largest counties and four largest cities). Second, add innovative as a word of description to the criteria.

Dr. Kamnikar also brought up a recommendation for changes to the criteria for the Order of Merit Award for consideration at the May Board Meeting. The change would be an annual time frame to a cumulative time frame for service.

**Executive Committee** – Judy Kamnikar, Chair  
Dr. Kamnikar reported various contracts were recommended for approval. extension under the same terms and conditions. Also, Judy circulated the nominations for the GFOAA officers and directors which will be voted on by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting. She also thanked Ms. Pat Aldrich and Ms. Angela Palmer for serving as board members that last two years.

Further business.....

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** – Mike Wright, Chair  
Mr. Wright presented a report on the Annual Conference. He also reported there were 128 persons registered.

**2004 Site Visit:** - George Vick, Chair  
Mr. Vick announced that the annual site visit will be at the Anniston Museum of National History on May 4, 2004. The museum will host a free tour at 10:00 a.m. You will need to pay for lunch.

**2004 Summer Conference:**  
Steve Boone informed the board that the contract had been executed and the summer conference was set for July 25-27, 2004 at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi. A budget and list of speakers would be presented at the board meeting in May.

Please Note: For those individuals requesting complete minutes or committee reports, please contact Roger Rendleman at 334-737-3664 or [rendleman@leeco.us](mailto:rendleman@leeco.us) or the committee chairs.

## 2004 Awards for Innovation

The Awards for Innovations in Government Finance program was introduced by GFOAA in the year 2000 in order to recognize innovations and outstanding contributions in the field of government finance. The program is designed to recognize documented innovations in government finance which exemplify leadership to the profession and promote improved public finance.

Congratulations to the following winning entries which were presented during the recent Annual Conference:

**City of Auburn – Meagan Kramer  
Becky Tucker**

**“Improving Budgetary Control and Accounts  
Payable Processes Through Training”**

**City of Auburn – Jeff Lord**

**“Guide to the Earned Income Tax Credit”**

For application forms and additional information, please visit our website at [www.gfoaa.org](http://www.gfoaa.org) or contact Judy Kamnikar at [jkamnikar@monk.aum.edu](mailto:jkamnikar@monk.aum.edu).

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## Congratulations

**Mike Wright**

**Edward and Judith Kamnikar Award  
of Merit Recipient**

Mike Wright received the GFOAA Edward and Judith Kamnikar Award of Merit at the GFOAA 20th Annual Conference.

Mike Wright is the Finance Director for the City of Tuscaloosa and has been a member of GFOAA since the beginning of our organization. He has attended all annual conferences except one. Mike was the President for 1993-94; has served on the Board and has been the chairperson for various committees. Mike is presently the chair of the Education Committee.

The Edward and Judith Kamnikar Award of Merit is awarded to recognize outstanding service or achievement in the governmental accounting and finance fields; recognizes outstanding service to the Alabama GFOA; and recognizes performance in an

outstanding manner beyond the normal expectations of job requirements.

**Congratulations Mike on your award and thank you for all you do for GFOAA!**

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## Mark Your Calendars!



GFOA's 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is June 13-16, 2004 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. GFOA's goal is to prepare government finance officers to successfully rise to new challenges. GFOA's annual conference will provide you with the innovative ideas, practical information, and professional contacts you need to face the unique set of challenges confronting today's public-sector finance professionals.

**For further information:** [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org)

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**Site Visit  
May 4, 2004**

**Anniston  
Museum of Natural History**

800 Museum Drive  
(intersection of Highways 431 and 21  
[www.annistonmuseum.org](http://www.annistonmuseum.org))

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

**Tour - Museum of Natural History**

**12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.**

**Luncheon at the  
Museum of Natural History**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Board Meeting**

**To register, please call George Vick at 256-231-7703 or e-mail at [gvick@ci.anniston.al.us](mailto:gvick@ci.anniston.al.us).**

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Conveniently located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Beau Rivage is a 32-story, unique resort destination with 1,780 guest rooms and boasts twelve distinctive restaurants for a multitude of dining experiences. The Beau Rivage Shopping Esplanade features an assortment of specialty shops. Nonstop gaming excitement can be enjoyed in the Mediterranean-themed casino. Additional amenities include an exquisite spa and salon overlooking a lushly landscaped tropical pool. Fully equipped sportfishing boats are available for charter from the marina or tee times can be scheduled for a round of golf.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**Room Rates:**

\$119.00 - Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>

\$139.00 - Friday/Saturday

**Reservations:**

Reservations may be made by calling the Beau Rivage Reservation Department at (888) 383-7037. In order to receive group rate, **you must identify your affiliation with GFOAA Annual Meeting.** Rates cannot be changed at check-in or check-out for guests who failed to identify their affiliation at the time the reservation is made.

Check-in time is 3:00 p.m./Check-out time is 11:00 a.m.

You are encouraged to **make reservations as early as possible.** Our reserved block of rooms will be held until the cut-off date of June 25<sup>th</sup>. Reservation requests after the cut-off date will be honored on a space-and-rate availability basis.

Please look at the internet site, [www.beaurivage.com](http://www.beaurivage.com), for a view of the facilities.

## CONGRATULATIONS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the following recipients of GFOAA scholarships. Attendees were awarded the scholarships at the annual business luncheon.



Kristen N. Coward  
University of Alabama



Ethelrene Franklin  
Troy State University Montgomery



K. Allison Hartzog  
Auburn University Montgomery



Steven M. Laminack  
Auburn University Montgomery



Roderick T. Shiver  
Auburn University Montgomery

**And**

Tammy Renee Steele  
University of South Alabam

### Notice

**If you attended the Annual Conference in Tuscaloosa and you did not receive a membership certificate, please contact Tracy Croom at 205-349-0112 or e-mail [tcroom@ci.tuscaloosa.al.us](mailto:tcroom@ci.tuscaloosa.al.us)**

## Welcome New Board Members

We are very pleased to welcome Randall Taylor, Clara Myers, Danny Panos and Gladys Gray to the Board of Directors. We know that they will provide great leadership to our organization during the coming year.

Special thanks to outgoing Board Members Joan Ensley, Pat Aldrich and Angela Palmer for their tireless dedication and service to GFOAA. Each of these Board Members has demonstrated outstanding leadership to our organization and increased the value of GFOAA.

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## Certified Governmental Accounting Technician (CGAT)

The first Certified Governmental Accounting Technician (CGAT) Certification General Ledger course was held at the University of Alabama on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. The course was taught by past-president, Dr. Edward Kamnikar, Accounting Professor at Troy State University, Montgomery. The class was attended by 35 students representing cities, counties, and school boards throughout Alabama including Huntsville, Anniston, Auburn, Orange Beach, Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Dothan, Mobile, and Prattville.



CGAT General Ledger Class Participants

The next CGAT Course will be Fund Accounting and will be offered on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the University of Alabama. Priority seating will be held for the current 35 students until May 7<sup>th</sup> after which time open seats will be offered based on received registration forms. For more information about the CGAT Certification program please visit [www.gfoaa.org](http://www.gfoaa.org)



Dr. Edward Kamnikar, Instructor



Lunch at the UA Cafeteria



Vicki Woodring, City of Orange Beach

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## GFOAA Office Administration

Please notify Lisa Kamnikar to change your address, or other pertinent information, at the following address:

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Montgomery, AL 36124-0574  
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**Government Finance Officers  
Association of Alabama  
(GFOAA)**

**April 1 – March 31, 2005**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND  
OFFICERS**

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**Governmental Relations Committee**

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# \$\$ Money Talk \$\$

The Alabama Journal of Government Finance

**Editor: Sherry R. Gurganus**

## Upcoming Events

### **May 4, 2004**

Site Visit  
Alabama Museum of Natural History  
Anniston, AL

And

GFOAA Quarterly Board Meeting  
Alabama Museum of Natural History  
Anniston, AL

### **June 9, 2004**

CGAT Program – Fund Accounting  
Dr. Judith Kamnikar, Instructor  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Martha Parham West, Room 112  
University of Alabama  
Tuscaloosa, AL



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