



\$\$ MONEY TALK \$\$

THE ALABAMA JOURNAL OF GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Volume V

Summer

Edition #2

Government Finance Officers Association of Alabama

From the President.....

Fortunately, Dennis was not a menace to the Hilton Garden Inn in Orange Beach. The Summer Conference will go on as planned for August 21st through August 23rd, so hurry and make your reservations by July 24th. The rooms in the reserved block are going fast so don't delay in making your reservation. Bill Flowers and his crew have put together an informative program that will provide us with an excellent learning and networking opportunity. Just a reminder for board members, committee members and interested members that the Quarterly Board Meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 21st at the Hilton Garden Inn.

I would like to send out a special thanks to Sarah Williams for the time and effort she took with the site visit at the State Capitol and board/committee meeting in May. The tour of the capitol was very informative, especially since it had changed a lot from the last time I was there in the fourth grade. Again, thank you Sarah!

Alabama had twenty-seven delegates in San Antonio for the GFOA convention in June. If you have never been to San Antonio, I would suggest going if you get the chance. The river walk is a unique feature of the city that you have to experience in person. The conference was informative and always a great opportunity to get perspectives of our profession from our colleagues around the country. Also, I would like to thank the delegates that joined the Alabama delegate breakfast hosted by GFOAA. I enjoyed seeing each of you, especially the ones I haven't seen for awhile and the ones that I met for the first time.

As always, if there is anything you can think of that could make this organization more beneficial to

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you in our daily challenges in public finance, please email your suggestions to rendleman@leeco.us or mail it to 215 South Ninth Street, Opelika, AL 36801. **It can be anything from a seminar topic to a new or improved member service.** Thank you in advance for your input.

Be sure to make your reservations and register for the 2005 Summer Conference at the Hilton Garden Inn in Orange Beach, August 21st through August 23rd. I will see you there!

Roger



**Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting
May 5, 2005
Alabama State Capitol
Montgomery, Alabama**

The GFOAA Board of Directors meeting was held May 5, 2005 at The State Capitol in Montgomery.



Business conducted included approval of the Minutes of February 27, 2005.

The treasurer's report was presented by Danny Panos. The report was approved as presented (contact Danny Panos, Treasurer, at 205-332-6112 or danny.panos@homewoodal.org for copies.)

Education Committee – Mike Wright, Chair Tracy Croom presented report. CGAT class of April 9, 2005 had 35 participants with 3 finish courses for certification. Half the participants were new. Of those tested, 100% (for the first time) passed and letters were sent. Upcoming classes and info is posted to the web site.

The 12 hour continuing education conference is scheduled for June 16 and 17 in Montgomery. Expectation is 15-20 participants. AUM participation helped tremendously with keeping costs low. CGAT contract with UA will be at same cost as last year.

Certification Committee – Judy Kamnikar, Chair

Judy Kamnikar presented the report. CGFO renewals have been issued.

Governmental Relations – Gene Stabler, Chair Mr. Stabler presented the report. The committee will meet as soon as possible and review passed legislation. The ones deemed affecting governmental finance are passed on to Sarsh Williams for posting to the web site.

Membership – Bill Flowers, Chair No report was given.

Scholarship and Service – Tracy Croom, Chair Tracy Croom presented the report. Three \$1,500 awards. After discussion, it was decided not to change due dates.

Strategic Planning – Ed Kamnikar, Chair Jim Schiefelbien presented report. SWAT responses had been analyzed and joint committee approach will be used.

Further business.....

2005 Summer Conference:

It was reported that the summer conference is scheduled for August 21-23 at Orange Beach. Expected participation is 75-100. Vendor display space will be limited.

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

CGAT UPDATE

Since our last newsletter many exciting CGAT events have taken place....

On April 13th GFOAA kicked off the second 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 32 students familiarizing themselves with the "study of ledgers". On June 8th, 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. For the first time, students in the 2005-2006 class are required to sit for a multiple-choice exam at the end of each session. These students are working very hard and taking lots of notes. To date, our passing rate is 100%.

We are also very proud to announce that Ms. Mary Motley employed with the City of Anniston and Ms. Tonja Harris employed with the Mobile Area Water & Sewer System became the first two 2005-2006 CGAT graduates to add to our very impressive graduation list. At this time, we have 31 CGAT certificate holders and the number is increasing with each class. Congratulations to these very two deserving students.

The 1st Annual CGAT Continuing Education Conference was held on June 16th and June 17th in Montgomery sponsored by GFOAA and the School of Business at Auburn University Montgomery. Participants attended sessions on Communicating with the Public taught by Sonny Brasfield, Assistant Executive Director for the Association of County Commissions of Alabama; Managing Multi-Priorities taught by GFOAA member Jim Schiefelbein, Vice President for the Bank of New York; Email Basics and Internet Work Related Searches taught by GFOAA Past President Sarah Williams, Bankruptcy Administrator for the Office of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court; and Learning Basic Word and Excel functions taught by Marvin Faye, Assistant Director, Computer Center for Auburn University Montgomery. Students were also treated to a Dress for Success Seminar hosted by Melinda Merjanian representing Parisian, Inc. and received a discount coupon to assist them in making some of the wardrobe purchases. The conference provided the participants with 12 CPE units and seemed to be very informative for the participants.

The next CGAT class will be held on August 17th at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa entitled Utility Billing and Accounts Receivable to be taught by Mr. Randall Harmon, Manager of Customer Service for the Birmingham Water Works Board. His teachings will concentrate on customer credit, customer billings, collections, return check collection, accounts receivable, security deposits on accounts, balancing controls and two case studies. By encouraging class participation, the students in

this “elective” course will leave “seeing the big picture” of accounts receivable.

Seats are still available for the Utility Billing/Accounts Receivable course. Please contact (205) 348-3000 or register online at: www.pmdp.ccs.ua.edu (Select Accounting, Finance & Taxation).

As you can see, many new training opportunities have become available for your staff members in all areas of governmental accounting. Please help us by encouraging your staff’s participation in this exciting training program. For more information about the GFOAA CGAT certification program, please visit www.gfoaa.org.



DeeDee Amundson
Huntsville City Schools



Karen Osborn, City of Sheffield
Amy Crawford, City of Tuscumbia



CGAT Class Participants



Mary Motley, City of Anniston
2005-2006 CGAT Certificate Holder



Tonya Harris, Mobile Area Water & Sewer System
Ora Williams, Mobile County Commission

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

P. O. Box 240574
Montgomery, AL 36124-0574
Phone: 334-462-7052 or
Email: Kamnikar@juno.com

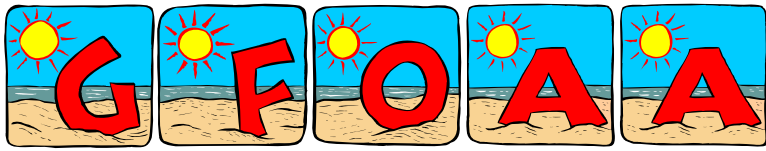


Tonja Harris, Mobile Area Water & Sewer System
2005-2006 CGAT Certificate Holder

**GFOA
100th Annual
Conference
May 7-10, 2006**

**Montreal,
Quebec,
Canada**





Summer Conference

**August 21-23, 2005
Hilton Garden Inn
Orange Beach, AL**

Housing: Daily room rates at the Hilton Garden inn are \$89.95 plus tax for a king, \$99.95 plus 11% tax for a double-pool view, \$109.95 plus 11% tax for a double-gulf view, and \$129.95 plus 11% tax for a beach front room. The rates above are for Sunday through Thursday. The beach front rooms are an additional \$50 per day for Friday and Saturday and all other rooms are an additional \$20 per day for Friday and Saturday. These special GFOAA rates available until July 24, 2005. Rooms at this special rate are limited, so please make your reservations early. Please reference group code :GFA” to receive the special rate.

Registration: Registration will be held on Sunday, August 21st between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m. and on Monday, August 22nd between 7:45 and 8:30 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Continuing Education Credit (CPE): Sixteen hours of continuing education credit has been approved by the Alabama State Board of Accountancy.

Conference Registration Forms should be mailed or faxed to:

Melinda Clack
Department of Mental Health
P. O. Box 301410
Montgomery, AL 36130-3612

Phone: 334-242-3612
Fax: 334-353-7005

E-mail: melinda.clack@mh.alabama.gov

Schedule-at-a-Glance

Sunday, August 21, 2005

2:00-5:00 p.m. Registration
3:00-5:00 p.m. GOAA Quarterly Board Meeting
6:00-8:00 p.m. Sponsor Hospitality Suite Open

Monday, August 22, 2005

7:00-8:30 a.m. Breakfast
7:45-8:30 a.m. Registration
8:30-8:45 a.m. Opening Remarks and Welcome
8:45-9:45 a.m. Proposed Changes to Alabama’s Fuel Tax Statutes
9:45-10:00 a.m. Break
11:00-12:00 p.m. GASB Update
12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch
1:15-2:15 p.m. Analysis of Government Financial Statements using GASB 34
2:15-2:30 p.m. Break
2:30-3:30 p.m. Group Discussion and Interactive Workshop Break-Out Session
3:30-3:45 p.m. Break
3:45-4:45 p.m. Group Discussion and Interactive Workshop Conclusion
6:00-8:00 p.m. Reception – Hilton Garden Inn

Tuesday, August 23, 2005

7:00-8:30 a.m. Breakfast
8:30-9:30 a.m. Analyzing Bank Service Charges “Hard Dollars” vs “Soft Dollars”
9:30-10:30 a.m. Sales Taxes and the Administration of Project Funds
10:30-10:45 a.m. Break
10:45-11:45 a.m. Alabama Economic Outlook
11:45-1:00 p.m. Lunch
1:15-2:15 a.m. On-Line Filing of Sales/Use and Lodging Taxes
2:15-2:30 p.m. Break
2:30-3:30 p.m. Natural Disaster Recovery – A Local Government Perspective
3:30-4:30 p.m. Sarbanes-Oxley Act and GAO Implications for Government
4:30-5:00 p.m. Closing Remarks and Door Prizes



10th Annual Governmental GAAP Update Satellite Teleconference November 10, 2005

This unique program offers participants an unsurpassed opportunity to obtain a comprehensive yet comprehensible overview of all the past year's developments affecting accounting and financial reporting for state and local governments. Last year's program was attended by a record 3,000+ participants from all across the United States.

Specific topics that will be addressed at this year's satellite teleconference include:

- Final guidance from GASB on termination benefits.
- New GASB implementation guidance on other postemployment benefits and the revised statistical section of the comprehensive annual financial report.
- Final GASB concepts statement on Communications Methods.
- Proposed GASB guidance on pollution remediation.
- New guidance on enterprise risk management from the Council of Sponsoring Organizations.
- Key new guidance offered in the 2005 edition of Governmental Accounting, and Financial Reporting (2005 GAAFR).
- Common financial reporting deficiencies.
- Ongoing GASB projects on derivatives, sales and pledges of receivables and future revenues, and fund balance.

Details to be announced.

Upcoming Events

August 17, 2005

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
CGAT Program – Accounts Receivable/Billing
(elective)
Martha Parham West, Room 112
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL

August 21, 2005

Quarterly Board Meeting
Hilton Garden Inn
23092 Perdido Beach Boulevard
Orange Beach, AL
Details TBA

August 21-23, 2005

2005 Summer Conference
Hilton Garden Inn
23092 Perdido Beach Boulevard
Orange Beach, AL
Details TBA

November 9, 2005

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
CGAT Program – Purchasing/Accounts Payable
(elective)
Martha Parham West, Room 112
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL

December, 2005

Quarterly Board Meeting and Joint Meeting of
Committees
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Details TBA

Points to Ponder.....

It's never crowded along the extra mile.

-Wayne Dyer

There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life—happiness, freedom, and peace of mind—are always attained by giving them to someone else.

-Peyton Conway March

By asking for the impossible, we obtain the possible.

-Italian Proverb

**Government Finance Officers
Association of Alabama
(GFOAA)**

April 1 – March 31, 2006

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
OFFICERS**

President:

Roger Rendleman, CGFO
Office: 334-737-3664/Fax: 334-742-9478
rrendleman@leeco.us

First Vice President:

Bill A. Flowers, CGFO
Office: 334-242-6362/Fax: 334-832-9022
flowersbi@dot.state.al.us

Second Vice President:

Penny Smith
Office: 334-501-7221
psmith@auburnalabama.org

Secretary:

Clara Myers
Office: 251-981-6801
cobtreas@gulftel.com

Treasurer:

Danny Panos
Office: 205-332-6112
Danny.pannos@homewoodal.org

Directors

Gladys Gray
Office: 334-242-2327
ggray@medicaid.state.al.us

Randall Taylor
Office: 256-427-5063
retaylor@ci.huntsville.al.us

Mac Champion
Office 334-358-3220
Mac.champion@prattville.com

Dana A. Foster-Allen
Office: 251-452-7901
d.allen@thecityofprichard.org

Lisa Reeder
Office: 334-615-3140
lhreeder@dothan.org

Melvin Turner
Office: 205-978-0128
treasurer@ci.vestaviahills.al.us

Associate Director

Barbara Hory
Office: 251-690-1442
Barbara.hory@regions.com

Immediate Past President

Steven Boone
Office: 205-802-3825
boones@mtnbrook.org

Public Information Officer

Sherry R. Gurganus
Office: 205-325-5763/Fax: 205-325-5841
gurganuss@jccal.org

GFOAA Administrative Assistant

Lisa Kamnikar
Office: 334-462-7052
Kamnikar@juno.com

Committee Chairpersons

Certification Board

Judy Kamnikar, CGFO
Office: 334-244-3496
jkamnika@mail.aum.edu

Education Committee

Mike Wright, CGFO
Office: 205-349-0113
mwright@ci.tuscaloosa.al.us

Governmental Relations Committee

Eugene "Gene" Stabler
Office: 334-277-4030

Membership Committee

Penny Smith
Office: 334-501-7221
psmith@auburnalabama.org

Scholarships & Service Committee

Steven Boone
Office: 205-802-3825
boones@mtnbrook.org

Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee

Jim Schiefelbein
Office: 205-214-0217
jschiefelbein@bankofny.com

\$\$ Money Talk \$\$

*The Alabama Journal of Government
Finance*

Editor: Sherry R. Gurganus



Sherry R. Gurganus
Jefferson County Finance Department
Suite 810 – Courthouse
716 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. N.
Birmingham, AL 35203