



\$\$ Money Talk \$\$

The Alabama Journal of Government Finance

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Government Finance Officers Association of Alabama

From the President.....

Wow....the hustle and bustle, the giving and receiving, the sharing and caring. That's what makes this season so special. I hope that each of you had a Christmas that reflected the reason for the season. As we usher in the New Year, I wish each of you a very prosperous year full of love and laughter.

As in the past, December provided an excellent educational opportunity for our members. As I increase in years of wisdom (nice way to say I'm getting older and rounder), my body is rejecting the 1½ hour sessions. However, for the first time in a long time, I found that my mind stayed focused and my breaks were cut to a minimum. This forum was one of the best that I have attended. Thanks to Ed Kamnikar, Angela Jackson and Alvena Williams for representing GFOAA on the committee that planned a great educational program. In addition to the educational sessions, the Board of Directors held their fall board meeting in Birmingham during the Forum and were hosted by The Bank of New York. On behalf of GFOAA, I would like to thank Jim Schiefelbein and Rick Schaal for their continued support of our organization.

One goal that I established for myself prior to accepting the nomination for president was to create a committee that would work to implement the Certified Governmental Account Technician (CGAT) program. I am proud to say that this program will be introduced at the upcoming annual conference in Tuscaloosa. Stay tuned....

Speaking of the annual conference, we are excited about your coming to Tuscaloosa on February 29th through March 2nd. Mike Wright has worked very hard to create educational sessions to appeal to all facets of government. For those of you working for school districts, cities, counties, the State of Alabama, State agencies, accounting firms, etc., this

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conference should appeal to you. One change this year will be the opening dinner event to be held at the Alabama Museum of Natural History on the University of Alabama Campus. This event will be a buffet dinner and the dress will be business casual. Guests are welcomed, but reservations must be made in advance. If you have not received your conference brochure/registration form in the mail, you may print one from our website (www.gfoaa.org) or check our pages 5-6 of this newsletter.

The Executive Committee will be meeting over the next month to prepare annual nominations of officers and directors for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2004. If you are interested in becoming more active with the organization and would like to be considered for a board or committee appointment, please email me at tcroom@ci.tuscaloosa.al.us.

On a personal note, many of you have asked if Sylvester Croom (head football coach at Mississippi State University) is related to me. I am very proud to say that he has been my brother-in-law for the past 26 years. Yes, everything you have heard is accurate...he is an incredible person, an excellent teacher and has positively affected the life of hundreds of young men who have crossed his path over the past 27 years. Our family thanks you for your words of kindness and encouragement as Sly continues to do what he loves....coach football and inspire young men to be the best that they can be.

Again, I look forward to seeing you in Tuscaloosa for the 20th Annual Meeting of the Government Finance Officers Association of Alabama.

Tracy



Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting December 10, 2003 The Summit Club Birmingham, Alabama

The GFOAA Board of Directors meeting was held December 10, 2003 at the Summit Club in Birmingham.



Business conducted included approval of the minutes of the special meeting on October 27, 2003 and minutes of the July 27, 2003 meeting.

Tracy Croom presented the Treasurer's report which was accepted by the Board. Contact Bill Flowers at 334-242-6362 or Fax: 334-832-9022; email: flowersbi@dot.state.al.us for copies of financial reports.

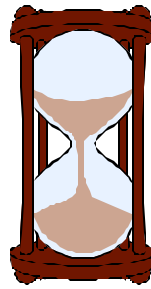
Certification Committee – Fran Copeland, Chair
Ms. Copeland reported the board was unable to meet; however, it appears that we should be able to finally offer the exam by the Annual Meeting. Contact Fran Copeland at fcopeland@dps.state.al.us with any questions.

Education Committee – Donna Tidmore, Chair
Mrs. Tracy Croom presented the Certified Governmental Accounting Technician Program (CGAT) for non-graduated accounting technician. Dr. Judith Kamnikar and Mrs. Croom provided information on materials that will be utilized in the training.

Mrs. Croom stated that she would like to have the program approved in time for a kick-off at the annual meeting and have materials in time for the meeting and set-up other means of advertising. After additional discussion on the specifics of the program, Mrs. Croom asked the board to approve the guidelines for the program and enter into an agreement with the University of Alabama for the administration of the program.

After additional discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Governmental Relations – Gene Stabler, Chair
Mr. Stabler reported he will monitor bills of interest to GFOAA during the upcoming session of the Legislature and will have them posted or linked to the web site.



There's Still Time! Deadline Extended

Membership – Steve Boone, Chair

Mr. Boone reported the draft of the membership book is ready for review and recommended everyone take a copy of the draft and e-mail him any changes that need to be made as soon as possible.

Public Information – Sherry Gurganus

Mr. Hulsey reported that the link to the fall issue newsletter was e-mailed via listServ on October 25, 2003.

Scholarship and Service – Judith Kamnikar, Chair

Dr. Kamnikar reported she had received two incomplete scholarship requests received prior to the deadline of August 31st. Dr. Kamnikar requested conditional approval so that the packets could be completed by the first week in January. The motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Planning Committee – Ed Kamnikar, Chair.

Dr. Kamnikar expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Croom and the Educational Committee for their hard work on making the CGAT program a reality. He also covered the other areas of the Strategic Plan and commented on the positive progress of each group.

Further business.....

GFOAA 20th Annual Conference (2004)

Mr. Wright covered the tentative schedule for the annual conference. He announced they plan to send two mailings and he presented a current financial report for the conference. (See page 5 and 6)

2004 Summer Conference:

Mr. Boone reported he is negotiating with Beau Rivage in Biloxi and asked the Board for authority to execute a contract with Beau Rivage once he addressed the attrition provision and is satisfied with the deal with the hotel. The motion passed by majority vote.

For those individuals requesting complete minutes or committee reports, please contact Roger Rendlemen: 334-737-6664/rendleman@leeco.us



Awards for Innovation

Applications are still being accepted through January 31, 2004 for the “Awards for Innovations in Government Finance” program. This awards program is designed to provide meaningful peer recognition for documented work that provides leadership to the profession and promotes improved public finance. Awards will be presented in each of seven major categories within the divisions of (1) Small Government Award (fewer than 200 full time employees) and (2) Large Government Award (200 or more full time employees).



Edward and Judith Kamnikar Award of Merit

Nominations for the Edward and Judith Kamnikar Award of Merit will be accepted through January 31, 2004. This new awards program is designed to recognize outstanding service or achievement in government finance by individual GFOAA members-at-large (non-officer/director). The activity/performance of the nominee to be considered must have occurred during the current calendar year. Criteria for judging is based upon:

- any activity related to governmental finance
- outstanding contributions to GFOA of Alabama
- use of professional position to promote sound governmental accounting and finance practices in an outstanding manner

PLEASE NOTE: Nomination materials and additional information for awards can be obtained by visiting our website at www.gfoaa.org or by contacting Judy Kamnikar at (334) 244-3496 or e-mail at jkamnikar@monk.aum.edu.



Congratulations

Travis A. Hulsey

Travis A. Hulsey was promoted to the position of Director of Revenue for Jefferson County on December 13, 2003.

Travis started his career at the County by accepting a promotion to Budget Officer in February, 1992. He was promoted to the position of Jefferson County Assistant Director of Finance in September, 1994.

I have worked with Travis since he came to the County and I have great respect for his work ethic, competency, and professionalism and as we all know he is an all-around nice guy.



Congratulations Travis!

Submitted by Sherry Gurganus



News Release

Government Finance Officers Association Teams with Grant Street Group to Bring Money Market Investment Platform to Public Sector

CHICAGO, IL – the Government Finance Officers Association announced an alliance with Grant Street Group, a fixed income internet auction house to create GFOA YieldAdvantage, a real-time electronic marketplace for governments to invest their cash holdings.

Contact: Jeff Esser, Executive Director
GFOA
(312) 977-9700
jesser@gfoa.org

Visit the GFOA web site for particulars or contact Sherry Gurganus at gurganuss@jccal.org for complete press release.



GFOA Annual Conference



The 2004 Government Finance Officers Association annual conference is scheduled for June 13-16, 2004 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The theme of the annual conference is “Financing the Future of Government”. More than 4,000 public finance officials from across the United States and Canada will attend GFOA’s 98th annual conference to learn about the challenges ahead and exchange perspectives on current issues in public finance.

There will be more than 60 concurrent sessions in seven tracks, which include accounting, auditing, and financial reporting; budgeting and financial planning; cash management and investing; debt management; management and policy; pensions and benefits; and technology and digital government.

More information on the GFOA conference and a list of sessions is available on the GFOA web site at www.gfoa.org. Online registration is available and attendees are encouraged to register early and take advantage of early bird registration discount.



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



**GFOAA 20th Annual
Conference
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
February 29, 2004 – March 2, 2004**



Conference Schedule

Sunday, February 29, 2004

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	GFOAA Board Meeting	Four Points Hotel
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Registration	Four Points Hotel
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Dinner	Alabama Museum of Natural History

Monday, March 1, 2004

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration	Four Points Hotel
7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Four Points Hotel
8:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Welcome	Mayor Alvin Dupont
8:45 – 9:45 a.m.	Overview of GFOAA	Dr. Judy Kamnikar
9:45 – 10:00 a.m.	Break	
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	GASB Update	Dr. Robert Smith
11:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	Four Points Hotel
12:15 – 1:00 p.m.	Luncheon Speaker	Dr. Charles Nash
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	The Future of Education Funding in Alabama	Mr. Robert Morton
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Break	
2:45 – 4:30 p.m.	Rating Agency/Bond Insurance Panel Mr. J. Hobson Presley, Moderator Mr. Brian Kennedy, Mr. James Breeding Mr. Gerald Durr and Mr. Chris Jumper	
7:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Dinner	Four Points Hotel

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast	
8:15 – 9:45 a.m.	State of Alabama Treasurer's Office Update	Ms. Kay Ivey
9:45 – 10:00 a.m.	Break	
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Embezzlement: A Real Cause for Concern	Mr. Barry Strock
11:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Business Meeting	Four Points Hotel
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	The Alabama Ethics Law	Mr. Hugh Evans
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Break	
2:45 – 4:15 p.m.	How to Re-Engineer for Success	Dr. Jack Harris
4:15 – 4:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks and Door Prizes	Mrs. Tracy Croom

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Organization _____ Title _____

Business Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email Address _____

Badge Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Registration Fee: \$ _____

Guest Fee: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO GFOAA ANNUAL CONFERENCE/mail with registration form to:

GFOAA 20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Attn: Mike Wright @ City of Tuscaloosa
P. O. Box 2089
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

If you have questions, please contact us at (205) 349-0113

In order to schedule meals, please indicate events that you and your spouse/guest plan to attend.

Dinner, Sunday	Member _____	Guest _____
Breakfast, Monday	Member _____	
Lunch, Monday	Member _____	
Dinner Monday	Member _____	Guest _____
Breakfast, Tuesday	Member _____	
Lunch, Tuesday	Member _____	

Membership

If you attend the annual conference, you will receive a \$25 credit on your 2004 membership dues (renewal or new).

Registration

Members and guests may register on Sunday, February 29th between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. or Monday, March 1st between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m.

Hotel Accommodations

The Four Points Hotel by Sheraton is located at 320 Paul Bryant Drive and is within walking distance of Coleman Coliseum and other University landmarks. The Bryant Museum and the Bryant Conference Center are located just east of the hotel in the same block. The Four Points Hotel will hold a block of 60 room until January 29, 2004. The conference room rate will be \$79.00 a night (plus 11% lodging tax), beginning Sunday, February 29th and ending Tuesday, March 2nd. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at (205) 752-3200. Please tell them you are attending the Alabama GFOA

Conference when making reservations in order to receive the conference rate.

Entertainment

Speakers, attendees and registered guests are cordially invited to attend our Sunday night dinner at the Alabama Museum of Natural History and the Monday night dinner/dance.

Continuing Education Credit

The conference has been approved for 16 hours of continuing credit by the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy.

Registration Fees

Registration - \$175.00 per attendee

Guest Fees

Registered guest are invited to attend Sunday and Monday night's dinner events. If you are bringing a guest, please include a \$25 guest fee with your registration.

**Government Finance Officers
Association of Alabama
April 1 – March 31, 2004**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
OFFICERS**

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