



\$\$ MONEY TALK \$\$

THE ALABAMA JOURNAL OF GOVERNMENT FINANCE

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Government Finance Officers Association of Alabama

From the President.....

Hopefully, life and work are beginning to settle down for most of you now that the fiscal year-end work is waning, the holidays have passed, and we begin to think toward next year. It appears that 2004 was a good year for the economy and most governments as revenues ticked upward. I look forward to another good year in 2005 as do you.

GFOAA's 2004-2005 year is drawing to a close in March. In Birmingham, the conference committee is working diligently preparing for a strong and successful 21st Annual Meeting and Conference to help send 2004-2005 out with a bang. The conference committee and GFOAA Board are laying the ground work that we hope will energize GFOAA and make our volunteer service easier to balance with our busy schedules and responsibilities. This year, for the first time, GFOAA will conduct its annual strategic planning workshop in conjunction with the annual conference. The strategic planning workshop has historically been well attended and we hope to continue that tradition with the new schedule— Sunday, February 27, 2005 from 1 p.m. until about 4:30 p.m. at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. Our plan is to schedule the strategic planning follow-up meeting in conjunction with the May 2005 site visit and Board meeting yet to be determined. We hope to schedule future committee meetings during our conferences to make attendance and participation easier on our committee members.

The strategic planning workshop is vital to GFOAA as all participants in the workshop have the opportunity to shape the upcoming year through the development of GFOAA's goals and objectives. You will find a "Committee Volunteer Registration Form" in the 21st Annual Conference registration flyer. Please consider becoming a more active

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GFOAA member by participating on a committee in 2005-2006. If you are hesitant about committing yourself for service on a committee at this time, please consider attending the strategic planning workshop so you can see firsthand how the organization operates and hopefully become more comfortable with the idea of being more actively involved in GFOAA in the future. The greatest asset of GFOAA is its membership, but to continue to grow and better serve our members, it is vital that we involve more members in the administration of GFOAA.

Mark your calendars for the 2005 Summer Conference to be held in the Gulf Shores/Orange Beach area. The conference is tentatively scheduled for August 21-23, 2005. More details will be made available at the 21st Annual Meeting and Conference in Birmingham. If you have questions about the 2005 Summer Conference, please contact Bill Flowers at flowersbi@dot.state.al.us.

The Executive Committee will be meeting next month to prepare annual nominations of officers and directors for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2005. 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 boones@mtnbrook.org.

Again, I look forward to seeing you in Birmingham at the 21st Annual Meeting of the Government Finance Officers Association of Alabama.

Steve



**Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting
December 7, 2004
The Marriott Hotel
Birmingham, Alabama**

The GFOAA Board of Directors meeting was held December 7, 2004 at the Marriott Hotel in Birmingham.



Business conducted included approval of the minutes of the July 25, 2004 meeting. Copies of the minutes can be obtained from Penny Smith at (334) 501-7221 psmith@auburnalabama.org.

Tracie Hodge presented the Treasurer's report which was accepted by the Board. Contact Tracie at (205) 325-8709 or email: hodget@jccal.org for copies of financial reports.

Certification Committee – Judy Kamnikar, Chair
Judy presented report for CGFO renewals. Second notices have been sent out. Judy is to explore options to purchase lapel pins for CGAT and CGFO designees.

Education Committee – Mike Wright, Chair
The CGAT has its fifth class offering in January. Fourteen individuals have successfully completed the course and certificates will be awarded at the annual conference. All teachers will be retained for the upcoming year course offerings. The second set of classes will start in April, 2005. UA will continue to host the program.

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.

Membership – Bill Flowers, Chair
Bill reported the membership directory has been sent to the printer and will be ready for distribution at the annual conference.

Scholarship and Service – Tracy Croom, Chair
Tracy reported the scholarship committee selected four individuals to receive \$3,000 scholarships for the fall semester. Presentations will be made at the annual conference.

Strategic Planning Committee – Ed Kamnikar, Chair.
Dr. Kamnikar and Jim Schiefelbein suggested changes in format for meeting. Planning sessions will be held in conjunction with the annual conference.

GFOAA 21st Annual Conference (2005)
Steven Boone reported annual conference is slated for February 27, 28 and March 1, 2005 at the Wynfrey Hotel.

2004 Summer Conference:

Mr. Boone presented final report. Income exceeded expenses.





Annual Accounting and Auditing Forum December 8 & 9, 2004 Update

The Annual Accounting
and Auditing Forum

held in December at the Birmingham Marriott was again a success. The 222 paid participants gave the 2004 edition of the "Forum" positive comments on the Speakers and the Facilities. The 2003 "Forum" had a paid attendance of 211. The increase of approximately 5% in paid attendance for this years program is proof of the continuing success of this joint project with the Montgomery Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants and the Alabama State Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Ed Kamnikar

GFOA 2004 Governmental GAAP Update

Congratulations! The GFOA 2004 Governmental GAAP Update not only had the highest ever attendance, with over 3,000 participants, but this year's program also had the largest number of host sites, with 146 sites across the United States.



GFOAA had two host sites—Mobile—arranged by Linda Steele and Birmingham—arranged by Sherry Gurganus.

The success of the GAAP Update is due to your support. Without your support and participation, GFOA would not be able to provide this unique training opportunity to such a broad audience that may otherwise have difficulty attending or accessing this program.

GFOA is proud to announce the dates for the 10th Anniversary Governmental GAAP Update, which is

scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2005 from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Eastern Standard.

If you are interested again in hosting a downlink site in your area, download a application from the GFOA web site at www.gfoa.org and forward to my attention via email at cphillips@gfoa.org or via fax at (312) 977-4086. Please note, even if you are a standing host site for all future GAAP Update programs, GFOA requires a current host application to be submitted.

Catlin Phillips



NEWS FROM THE IRS

The busy holiday season is over, and now the often busier tax season has begun. I hope to give you some reminders that will help you as you launch into a successful New Year.

One of the most important things is to check our website at www.irs.gov. The website changes often and has information for all types of entities required to file with the IRS. Some of the information under the business section will help with basic forms and questions, and you will certainly want to check out the area dedicated to Government Entities (www.irs.gov.gov/fslg). A really good place to start looking for "hard to locate" information is the "site map" portion of the initial website page.

The Social Security Administration also maintains a good, comprehensive website, and their section dedicated to Government Entities is www.ssa.gov/slge.

Helpful Information numbers: To have forms faxed to you (not toll free), fax a request to 1-703-368-9694. Order current and prior year forms, publications, etc., call 1-800-829-3676. Ask Tax Questions at 1-800-829-1040 TTT/TDD callers can use 1-800-829-4059. **TAX EXEMPT AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES CALL 1-877-829-5500**

TOPICS OF INTEREST:

- **IMPORTANT:** There has been a major revision of the Form 941, Employer's

Quarterly Federal Tax Return, for 2005. The form will be used for the first quarter of 2005.

- Any payer required to file an Information Return (Example: Form 1099-Misc) is required to obtain identifying information (name, EIN, etc.) required to issue a correct form. Form W-9 is provided for use in obtaining this required information, and the Completer of the form signs under “penalties of perjury” that the information furnished is correct.
- Form 1099-Misc is required to be furnished to the payee by January 31, 2005, and the forms are due at the IRS by February 28, 2005. The **Instructions for Forms 1099, 1098, 5498, and W-2G**, an information booklet about required returns is published annually, and it is a MUST HAVE educational tool. This is the first place I start when I get a question about the issuance of an Information Form.
- REMINDER: Most payments to Corporations do not require the issuance of Form 1099, but there are some exceptions. Gross Proceeds paid to an attorney (box 14) and Attorney’s fees (box 7) are reportable on Forms 1099-Misc, even if the Attorney works out of a Corporate Entity. Box 6 of the Form 1099-Misc is provided for payments of \$600 or more to each physician or provider of medical or health care services, even if the service provider is a Corporation.

Judith Nichols

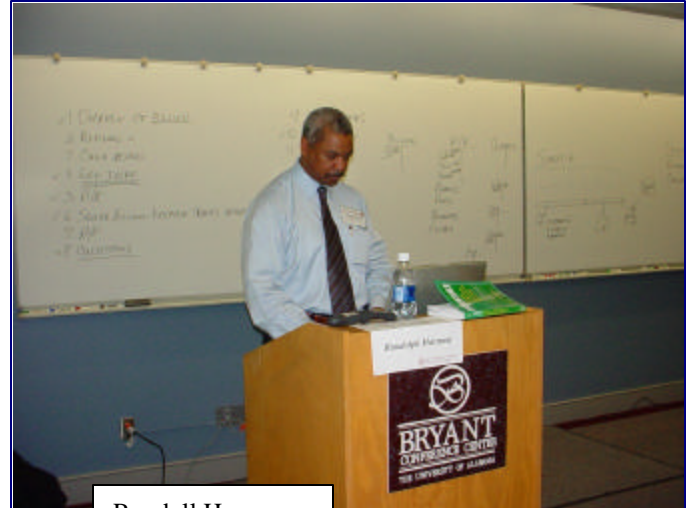
*Federal State and Local Governments Specialist
251-340-1781*



CGAT Update

On November 10th, the CGAT training concentrated on Utility Billing and Accounts Receivable as Mr. Randall Harmon, Manager of Customer Service for the Birmingham Water Works Board focused his teachings 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, Randy was able to help the twenty-three CGAT students who attended this “elective” course leave “seeing the big picture” of accounts receivable.



Randall Harmon

The final CGAT class for this fiscal year will be held on Wednesday, January 19th at the Bryant Conference Center on the University of Alabama Campus in Tuscaloosa. The topic for this “elective” class is Payroll and will be taught in three sections by City of Tuscaloosa staff members: Amy Sumner, Human Resources Generalist will conduct the Human Resources section, Tracy Croom, Associate Finance Director will teach the Payroll section and Jimbo Woodson, Associate City Attorney will expose the students to specific laws that affect this area. Five seats are still available for the Payroll course. You can contact (205) 348-3000 or register online at: www.pmdp.ccs.ua.edu (Select Accounting, Finance & Taxation).



For more information about the GFOAA CGAT certification program, please visit www.gfoaa.org

GFOAA 21st Annual Conference



Birmingham, Alabama
February 27, 2005 through
March 1, 2005

Conference Schedule

Sunday, February 27, 2005

10:30 – 12:00 p.m.	GFOAA Board Meeting	The Wynfrey Hotel
1:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Strategic Planning Workshop	The Wynfrey Hotel
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Registration	The Wynfrey Hotel
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception	The Wynfrey Hotel

Monday, February 28, 2005

7:30 – 8:00 a.m.	Registration and Continental Breakfast	The Wynfrey Hotel
8:00 – 8:15 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Mayor Tony Petelos
8:15 – 9:15 a.m.	<i>Record Retention and Disposition</i>	Tom Turley
9:15 – 9:30 a.m.	Break and Exhibits	
9:30 – 10:45 a.m.	<i>Alabama Education Update</i>	Craig Pouncey
10:45 – 12:00 p.m.	<i>Identity Theft</i>	April Williams
12:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch - Invocation by Larry Langford	The Wynfrey Hotel
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.	<i>Worker's Compensation Problems and the Employers' Arsenal of Weapons</i>	John Kennedy
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	Break and Exhibits	
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	<i>Financial Institution Excise Tax</i>	John Paradise
3:30 – 3:45 p.m.	Break and Exhibits	
3:45 – 4:45 p.m.	<i>Property Tax Issues</i>	Dan Weinrib
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Dinner	The Wynfrey Hotel

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration and Continental Breakfast	The Wynfrey Hotel
8:30 – 9:45 a.m.	<i>Recent Changes in the Fair Labor Standards Act</i>	Lyndel Erwin
9:45 – 10:00 a.m.	Break and Exhibits	
10:00 – 12:00 p.m.	<i>Understanding GASB #45</i>	Christopher Clark
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch and Business Meeting	The Wynfrey Hotel
1:30 – 2:45 p.m.	<i>Transportation Update</i>	Joe McInnes
2:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Break and Exhibits	
3:00 – 4:15 p.m.	<i>Professional Development</i>	Andrew McGreer
4:15 – 4:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks and Door Prizes	Steven Boone

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Organization _____ Title _____

Business Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email Address _____

Badge Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____

**Note: \$195 if received on or before February 11 2005 or \$220 if received thereafter.*

Registration Fee (\$195*): \$ _____
Guest Fee (\$35 each): \$ _____
Total Enclosed: \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO “GFOAA ANNUAL CONFERENCE” and mail with registration form to:

GFOAA 21st ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Attn: Steve Boone @ City of Mountain Brook
P. O. Box 130009
Mountain Brook, AL 35213-0009

Regarding inquiries, please call (205) 802-3825 or e-mail boones@mtnbrook.org or fax (205) 879-6913

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

Welcome Reception, Sunday
Lunch, Monday
Dinner, Monday
Lunch, Tuesday

Member _____ Guest _____
Member _____
Member _____ Guest _____
Member _____

Registration

The registration fee is \$195 per attendee if received on or before February 11, 2005. Paid registrations received after this date will be \$220. The registration fee does not include the \$35 guest fee for the welcome reception and dinner. Members and guests may register on Sunday, February 27th between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. or Monday, February 28th between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m.

Paid registrants will receive \$25 credit as a new member or current membership renewal.

Hotel Accommodations

The Wynfrey Hotel, adjacent to the Riverchase Galleria, is a Four Diamond Preferred Hotel. Located in Hoover, the hotel is in close proximity to a variety of restaurants and shopping areas. Conference room rates are \$69 per night plus tax. The Wynfrey Hotel offers on-site parking in their deck for a fee. For reservations, please call (205)

987-1600 or toll free (800) 476-7006. Please tell them you are attending the Alabama GFOA Conference when making reservations in order to receive the conference rate.

Welcome Reception and Dinner

Speakers, attendees, paid/registrants and guests (guest fee of \$35 each) and sponsors/exhibitor representatives are invited to the welcome reception Sunday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and also dinner at the Wynfrey Hotel Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. All meetings and social functions are business casual.

Continuing Education Credit

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

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

April 1 – March 31, 2005

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
OFFICERS**

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\$\$ Money Talk \$\$

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