



# \$\$ MONEY TALK \$\$

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Government Finance Officers Association of Alabama

## From the President.....

Hopefully your new year is off to a great start. Now that we have enjoyed another holiday season and head off into 2006, it is time to mark your calendars and make plans to attend the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference. This year's event is at The Select Hotel in Huntsville from February 26<sup>th</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup>. Randy Taylor and the annual conference committee are finalizing the details on what is sure to be an informative educational opportunity as well as a beneficial networking event.

Besides the conference will be a nice break in what promises to be a challenging year. That is right, 2006 is an election year for the State and many local governments. Anyone that has been around for an election cycle or two knows that when the campaign signs go up each of us are left wondering if and how much of your entity's policies and direction will change when all is said and done. Remember whether there is change in your entity's political leadership or not, you have the opportunity as a governmental financial officer to provide a certain level of continuity and stability through your professionalism and abilities. There are very few that understand what we do and eventually they have to turn to you for advice, not that it will always be heeded. We have a responsibility to do our best by being objective and providing the facts. If you want to be the one to set policy, then you need to be running for office. Don't forget when you are facing a challenge from an election year change be sure to utilize the networking of your fellow GFOAA members, I will bet that you will find one of us that has gone down a similar road somewhere in our career.

I would like to thank Regions Bank and Barbara Hory for hosting the quarterly board meeting in December. The food and fellowship was wonderful. We are very appreciative of all our sponsors especially with the active involvement beyond just the financial support.

As always if there is anything you can think of that could make this organization be more beneficial to you in your daily challenges in public finance, please email your suggestions to [rrendleman@leeco.us](mailto:rrendleman@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.

*Roger*

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## CGAT UPDATE

Since the last newsletter, CGAT has had two class offerings.

On November 9<sup>th</sup> the Accounts Payable elective class was taught by Mrs. Andrea Jackson, City Treasurer and Finance Director for the City of Auburn. The class was attended by 32 students who were eager to learn about new and exciting accounts payable techniques.

At the end of the Accounts Payable class, twelve (12) new CGAT graduates were named and presented plaques. There are as follows: Melissa Roney, City of Prattville; Jackie Davis, City of Tuscaloosa; Teresa Yeatman, City of Tuscaloosa; Sherree Perkins, City of Tuscaloosa; Jennifer Clouse, City of Tuscaloosa; Diana Amundson, Huntsville City Schools; George Holmes, City of Auburn; Carrie McLawhorn, City of Auburn; Janice Holyfield, City of Birmingham; Gina Antolini, City of Columbiana; Mailye Taylor, City of Birmingham; and Emily Smartt, City of Decatur.



The January 18<sup>th</sup> Payroll and Human Resources class featured a team of instructors from the City of Tuscaloosa who spoke to 29 enthusiastic students. This class taught by HR Generalist Amy Sumner, Assistant City Attorney Jimbo Woodson and Assistant Finance Director Tracy Croom gave instructions on specific human resource and payroll techniques. Jimbo also discussed the law and specific rulings that affect state, county, local and school system employees.

At the conclusion of this class, eleven (11) additional CGAT graduates were named. They are

as follows: Terry Bennett, Arab City Board of Education; Wanda Martin, City of Auburn; Kathy Blood, Huntsville City Schools; Karen Osborn, City of Sheffield; Ora Williams, Mobile County Commission; Sondra Shelton, Huntsville City Schools; Sandra Hauser, Madison County Commission; Deborah South, City of Decatur; Jessica Smith, City of Decatur; Debbie Casteel, Huntsville City Schools. Not picture is Amy Johnson, City of Tusculmbia.



We are proud to announce that to date there are 57 CGAT certificate holders located throughout the State of Alabama. Our new class dates for the 2006/2007 program year have been set. Please encourage your staff members and colleagues to register for one of the upcoming CGAT courses listed below:

General Ledger ~ April 5, 2006  
Fund Accounting ~ June 7, 2006  
Billing/AR ~ August 23, 2006  
Purchasing/Accounts Payable ~ November 8, 2006  
Payroll/HR ~ January 17, 2006

All classes are held from 9 am until 4 pm at the University of Alabama Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa and include breakfast and lunch. To learn more about the CGAT program, please visit our website at [www.gfoaa.org](http://www.gfoaa.org).



# Attention All CGAT Certificate Holders

Make Plans To Attend the

## Certified Governmental Accounting Technician

### Second Annual CGAT Continuing Education Conference

Sponsored By The  
Government Finance Officers  
Association of Alabama  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006

Holiday Inn Express ☆  
Boyd-Cooper Parkway  
Montgomery, Alabama

Registration \$75.00

For reservations at the  
Holiday Inn Express call  
334-271-5516 and ask for  
the CGAT room rate of  
\$65 plus 12.5% tax

Registration forms are  
available online at  
[www.gfoaa.org](http://www.gfoaa.org)

## From the Editor.....

I have thoroughly enjoyed preparing the GFOAA newsletter for the past seven years; however, it is time another member is given the opportunity to be editor.

I want to thank the officers, directors, committee members and members who helped me with articles, photos, ideas and encouragement throughout my tenure as editor—it was greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to Sarah Williams in getting ListServ set up to facilitate on-line access of the newsletter for the convenience of our membership and of course in saving printing and postage costs.

If you have an interest in publishing the newsletter, please contact Roger Rendlemen at [rrendleman@leeco.us](mailto:rrendleman@leeco.us).

I will be available to help with questions, templates, etc.

**Sherry**



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# \$\$ Money Talk \$\$

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