



## **2016-2017 Committee Final Reports**

### **Certification Committee**

***Kelly Strickland, Committee Chair***

The Certification Committee, made up of the Applications and Renewals Subcommittee, Exam and Review Subcommittee, Review by Webinar Subcommittee, and Exam Question and Review Subcommittee, has had a VERY busy and successful year! The Applications and Renewals Subcommittee reviewed over 50 applications for the fall and spring Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) exams, as well as renewed CGFO's around the state. The Subcommittee also selected 25 percent of the renewing CGFOs to experience an audit of their continuing professional education. The Exam and Review Subcommittee scheduled and held two CGFO exams, one in November 2016, the other March 2017, in locations across the state. This subcommittee, working with the Review by Webinar Subcommittee, scheduled and held review sessions to prepare the examinees for the exam. Almost all the sessions had two instructors present the materials, some of which had quality first time instructors, while others had veteran instructors. The Exam Question and Review Subcommittee took on the task of making a recommendation to achieve the Committee's goal - "Re-look at the process to develop and update exam questions", with each exam being reviewed over the next year. With funding budgeted by the FGFOA Board, an outside agency or firm will review and update all exams. Lastly, the Committee worked with the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants to develop ethics training that will satisfy not only the four hour Ethics training for CPAs, but will be accepted for CGFOs in lieu of the Laws and Rules Exam. A job well done by the Certification Committee Chair and Members!!

### **Conference Host Committee**

***Johnna Agin, Committee Co- Chair***

***Susan Nabors, Committee Co-Chair***

The Conference Host Committee worked throughout the year to plan events for the annual conference. The Committee planned for the Opening Session, Tuesday Night Event and Hospitality Suite. They also developed the conference logo and selected the welcome bags. The President's Reception, Association Night, Golf Tournament and Zumba were coordinated by the Florida League of Cities staff. League staff also assisted with the Tuesday Night Event.

The Theme/Logo/Bags subcommittee met early on during the planning year to develop a logo to support the 2017 conference theme – *Focus on the Future*. This subcommittee also discussed and selected the bags to be handed out at the conference.

The Opening Session subcommittee coordinated and selected a singer for the National Anthem, a Pastor to give the invocation, the Color Guard for the presentation of flags and scheduled the Mayor of Hollywood for a welcome speech.

The Hospitality Night subcommittee planned a number of fun events for the evenings. A DJ with Karaoke is planned. They also put together some “conversation starters” to help get people get to know each other. Plus, the subcommittee has planned some entertaining games with fun prizes.

The Tuesday Night Event subcommittee came up with some awesome ideas to enhance the Hollywood-themed event selected by the President. Guests will walk the red carpet, pose for photos and enter the ballroom adorned with Hollywood décor. For the first hour there will be big band music and a vocalist to sing 30s and 40s era torch songs. Then a DJ will amp things up for dancing during the last two hours.

A great deal of effort was put forth by the committee members to come up with creative ideas and fun activities. This is a perfect opportunity to thank all the Host Committee members for your dedication and imagination in planning this year’s conference activities. Also, we could not have pulled this all together without the assistance of the Board Liaison, Shannon Ramsey-Chessman.

## **Conference Program Committee**

### ***Frank DiPaolo, Committee Chair***

It was a fantastic year for the Conference Program Committee! The Committee worked diligently to complete all of the goals outlined during the FGFOA Board’s Strategic Planning session last year. This year was not without its challenges, including unforeseen retirements and position changes for key committee members, and notwithstanding these setbacks the committee completed all of its tasks and goals, providing an exciting program for the 2017 FGFOA Conference in Hollywood.

Summary of Strategic Planning Goals for 2016-17:

- Add a technology track focused on cyber threats, website transparency, social media, etc.
  - **A new Technology track was added, providing a diverse group of sessions**
- Add a Management 101 Session – Supervisory Skills (hire/fire, discipline, motivate)
  - **The Leadership Preconference program, featuring a number of FGFOA Past-Presidents, focused on a variety of management-oriented issues faced by Government Finance Directors/CFOs**
- Consider a session on the ABC’s of Public Speaking (maybe a pre-conference seminar)
  - **Two sessions in the regular program, including such topics as communication with elected officials and ways to enhance personal performance, dutifully fulfill this goal**
- Have an FGFOA Leadership Graduate and a seasoned member conduct a leadership session
  - **This was incorporated as a session in the Leadership Preconference program**
- Committee Members complete specialized speaker evaluation forms on site at the conference

- **This is a priority for all committee members, ensuring that quality speakers and sessions are put on the program each year**

In closing, the Committee did a great job developing a program that provides sessions on technical finance and accounting issues, the economy and best practices in investments, management and strategic planning matters, organizational development and leadership/personnel topics, and informational technology and security concerns. The committee assembled for 2017-18 is ready to begin developing another high-quality conference program. This year, the Committee will be led by Chairman Bryan Cahen, who served on the Committee this past year and will undoubtedly take the program to the next level.

Congratulations to everyone who served this year and thank you for a job well done!

## **Legislative Committee**

### ***April Shuping, Committee Chair***

The Legislative Committee made progress this year in redefining its role within the FGFOA and building a strong relationship with the FLC and FAC. The Committee members hosted weekly calls with the lobbyists from the FLC and FAC to get updates on pending legislation and to research and report on potential impacts of proposed legislation which were shared with the lobbyists to help legislators understand the financial and operating impacts of the legislation being considered. Some of the bills that the committee provided information on were:

- Local Government Fiscal Transparency
- Local Government Fiscal Responsibility
- Local Business Tax
- Presumption for firefighters for cancer
- Municipal Bond Tax Exemption at the Federal Level

The Committee has more work to do in the upcoming year by finding the best role for its members within the FGFOA and in continuing to serve the Board. The members of the committee went well above and beyond the call and provided engaged and thoughtful participation and responses. Their contributions were key to the committee's success. I thank the Board for the opportunity to Chair this committee this year and as I transition from active to associate member, I will look forward to seeing how the committee's role evolves over the next year under new leadership.

## **School of Governmental Finance Committee**

### ***Jennifer Desrosiers, SOGF Committee Chair***

The Committee is proud to present following Year End Report for the 2016 School of Governmental Finance. The Committee reports an amazing program in beautiful Sanibel and again thanks each and every one who helped to really make this year shine! From dedicated Committee volunteers from around the state, Sub-Chairs for each of the tracks, the Florida League of Cities staff and all FGFOA Board members, with special recognition to Board President

Sarah Koser and SOGF liaison Nicole Gasparri, this program would not be as successful if we did not have all of you contributing to this amazing educational program.

If you are looking for a rewarding experience, won't you consider joining our committee, be a speaker, or if you have a topic idea, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Jennifer Desrosiers at [jdesrosiers@cityofnorthport.com](mailto:jdesrosiers@cityofnorthport.com) or any committee member for assistance.

Continue watching the website for the 2017 School of Governmental Finance!

## **Technical Resource Committee**

### ***Melissa Burns, Committee Chair***

The Technical Resources has had a productive year we have accomplished the following:

Drafted responses to the following exposure drafts from GASB:

- Project 37-E Omnibus 201X
- Project 19-25E – Certain Debt Extinguishment Issues
- Project 34-1E – Implementation Guide No. 201X-X
- Project 24-16ED – Implementation Guide No. 201X-Y, Implementation Guidance Update – 201X

Drafted a response to an Invitation to Comment; Project 3-25I Financial Reporting Model Improvements-Governmental Funds. GASB held several public hearings one of which they requested President Sarah Koser to testify and the Committee assisted in preparing her testimonial statement.

The Basic Government Resource Manual has been updated, and the Committee is in the process of developing a webinar to be held in July.

## **Webinar Committee**

### ***Brandy Ferris, Committee Chair***

The Webinar Committee met for the first time at the annual Florida Government Finance Officers' Association conference that was held in June 2016. There was a great turnout for the meeting, with only a few members unable to attend. After that meeting, the Committee was off to a great start.

The webinar schedule was soon finalized and approved by the Board. The Committee has successfully completed the following webinars, each with close to or more than 300 participants:

- Florida Benchmarking Consortium
- FLSA Changes and Standards Update
- Financial Advising-Debt or Cash?
- IT Controls
- CRC and Healthcare Reform Act
- GFOA Budget Award
- Legislative Update

The next webinar will be held on July 20, 2017, and will cover the FGFOA's Government Resource Manual. We will close out the year with a webinar intended to assist local governments with determining where their fiduciary responsibility begins and ends. This webinar will be held on August 17, 2017.

I think this year has been a great one, full of educational and networking opportunities. Both the Committee and I look forward to finishing the year on a high note and continuing to serve the FGFOA Membership in the future.

## **Divergent Series Ad-Hoc Committee** ***Donna Wright, Ad-Hoc Committee Chair***

The Divergent Committee presented the first seminar!

Topics and Speakers:

- FLSA Overtime law  
Richard Blystone – Garganese, Weiss & D'Agresta, P.A.
- Employee Recruitment, Retention and Evaluations  
Joyce Chastain – The Krizner Group
- Enhance your own performance  
Nicole Gasparri – City of Boca Raton
- HR discrimination/harassment/ Rules  
Michael Roper – Bell & Roper & Kohlmyer, PA

## **Social Media Ad-Hoc Committee** ***Jason Loschiavo, Ad-Hoc Committee Chair***

The Social Media Ad Hoc Committee was charged with several tasks including developing and recommending social media strategies across all platforms; evaluating who should post content; and assist in developing a social media session at the 2017 Conference. The committee spent the beginning of the year evaluating social media platforms and deciding which would be best for the FGFOA and its members. After a thorough review, the committee decided on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube due to their popularity and features.

After deciding on the platforms that should be used, the committee spent time updating the social media policy as well as creating guidelines for posting content and benchmarks for success. The committee also evaluated the need for social media tools to assist in posting content, reviewing interactions, and tracking benchmarks.