

EVOLUTION

2024 FGFOA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A Message from Outgoing FGFOA President Frank DiPaolo



Frank DiPaolo

FGFOA President 2023-2024
Chief Financial Officer
City of Dania Beach

I want to take this opportunity, as the now Immediate Past-President of the FGFOA, to thank everyone that contributed to the FGFOA and help make this past year a tremendous success. In particular, I commend the work of the Standing and Ad Hoc Committees. They are the backbone of our organization, and I am thankful to have served with an amazing group of Committee Chairs this year. I cannot thank them enough for their leadership and commitment to our mission of Leadership, Education, Networking, and Information. They were formally recognized at the annual conference, and for those who did not attend, below is a summary of each committee's accomplishments.

It was a pleasure to have served you this year and I look forward to future success under the leadership of President Rip Colvin and the FGFOA Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs, and Local Chapter Presidents.

Ad-Hoc Committees

Local Chapter Ad-Hoc Committee

Jamie Roberson, CGFO
FGFOA Past President
Deputy Chief of Operations
Martin County Clerk of the Circuit Court &
Comptroller



Jamie is a past president of the FGFOA and served as chair of this ad-hoc committee. The revitalization of Local Chapters was my one of the goals I laid out last at the 2023 conference. Many of you probably know that some of the local chapters are thriving, but others have not fared so well. We know that the FGFOA is most successful when its local chapters are engaged, and your FGFOA Board is committed to ensuring that all local chapters are well functioning and performing with eager volunteers who understand exactly what needs to be done and have the energy to execute.

During the past year, with the help of Jamie and the ad-hoc committee, and the support of our board of directors, we were able to successfully revitalize three dormant local chapters. We went directly to those chapters and facilitated in-person CPE events and were able to recruit full local chapter boards. These chapters are off and running and conducting their own events. And they know that the FGFOA is here to ensure that the struggling organizations not only survive but begin to thrive. For all local chapters, beginning July 1st, the FGFOA is now administering registrations, treasury, and facilitating all local chapter events. Jamie, thank you for your leadership on the 2023-2024 Strategic Communications Committee and for helping us accomplish this goal.



Strategic Communications Ad-Hoc Committee

Shannon L. Ramsey-Chessman, CPA, CGFO
FGFOA Past President
Chief of Staff and Chief Deputy Clerk
Palm Beach County Clerk of the Circuit Court &
Comptroller

Shannon Ramsey-Chessman is a past president of the FGFOA and served as chair of this ad-hoc committee. Strategic Communications was another one of my goals and as I stated last year when I addressed you before being sworn in, there is so much happening in the FGFOA and our industry, there are so many events, there is so much to celebrate, and we must take the time to organize all this information and package it in a way that connects with all members. This committee has already begun the process of re-envisioning how we communicate with our members and ensuring that our messaging is timely, relevant, and utilizes multiple platforms to connect with everyone. And you will see more of this strategic initiative in the months and years to come. Shannon, thank you for your leadership on the 2023-2024 Strategic Communications Committee and thank you to the committee members for their service.

Standing Committees

Certification Committee

Mary-Lou Pickles, CGFO, CMA
FGFOA Past President
Retired



When we talk about Evolution, nothing hits home harder than what Mary-Lou accomplished with her committee this year. In case you weren't already aware, the FGFOA recently transitioned the CGFO examination process to an online format. You can now become certified completely online, thanks to the efforts of Mary-Lou and the Certification Committee. I am so proud of this retired, past-president, lifetime achievement award winner who volunteered to take on this project and see it through to completion. I'm happy to say that this project is complete; however, the work is not done. This year will bring more enhancement to the certification program and the administration process. The *Evolution* of the CGFO Program was the third and final goal I laid out last year when I was sworn in. I want to take this opportunity to formally thank Mary-Lou for her hard work and continued dedication, to the FGFOA, in retirement, and for her efforts she was presented with the ***President's Award for Excellence in Leadership*** for Implementation of the Online CGFO Program.



Conference Program Committee

Sarah Simpson, CPA, CGFO
Budget Manager
City of Aventura

In addition to creating the entire educational program for the Annual Conference, the Program Committee under Sarah's leadership launched "Call for Session Topics" to compile the membership's ideas, suggestions, and opinions for upcoming programs and this was used for session topics and/or speakers; they incorporated a Women in Leadership Session at the Annual Conference entitled "Yes We Can!"; they launched the "Evolution Series" Sessions at the Conference (we have 5 in total) which were designed to go beyond lectures! Our EVOLUTION series round tables put attendees at the center of the conversation. Sarah, thank you for your leadership on the 2023-2024 Conference Program Committee and thank you to the committee members for their service.

Educational Programs Committee

Stephen Timberlake
Special Projects Manager
City of Boca Raton



Since last July, Stephen and the Educational Programs Committee planned and hosted 11 webinars by first identifying a broad range of relevant topics and then scheduling knowledgeable speakers. The webinars were attended by a total of 3,512 members, averaging 319 members per webinar and our best attended webinar was Generative AI and Automation for your Finance team that was attended by 505 members! Stephen, thank you for your leadership on the 2023-2024 Educational Programs Committee and thank you to the committee members for their service.



Event Host Committee

Anna C. Otiniano
Financial Services Director
City of Plantation

This year, the Event Host Committee provided the hospitality suite at the school of government finance, with record turnout. This provided attendees the opportunity to network and even encouraged one attendee to apply for the leadership program. Event host coordinated the Monday opening session, our Tuesday night event, even the photography and video at the conference. Anna, thank you for your leadership on the 2023-2024 Event Host Committee and thank you to the committee members for their service.

Professional Development Committee

Kadem V. Ramirez
Deputy Finance Administrator
City of Palm Beach Gardens



The Professional Development Committee under Kadem's leadership had quite a year including Outreach with Florida Atlantic University, educating the accounting students of Careers in Government Accounting, as well as the benefits of joining FGFOA, completion of another year of the mentor/mentee program with 16 pairings, 21 Graduates from the fantastic Leadership Program, and we hosted the first annual Dynamic Leadership Reception that took place at the Annual Conference. This exclusive event was designed to celebrate the achievements and stories of our Leadership Program graduates and Mentor/Mentee Program participants. The event featured a special guest speaker and allowed the participants to gather for an enriching evening of insights, networking, and storytelling. Kadem, thank you for your leadership on the 2023-2024 Professional Development Committee and thank you to the committee members for their service.



School of Governmental Finance Committee

Elizabeth Anne Walter, MBA, CGFO, CPFIM
Budget & Grants Manager
South Florida Regional Transportation Authority

Elizabeth and the Committee put together an AMAZING schedule of topics and speakers for the 2023 School of Government Finance in Ft. Myers! The sub-chairs and committee members have been working together for many years and operate like a well-oiled machine. They are already hard at work on the 2024 School program. On behalf of the Board, thank you Elizabeth and the Committee for a great School program.

Technical and Legislative Resources Committee

Derek H. Noonan
Audit Manager
Auditor General, State of Florida



Derek led the Committee to issue various alerts on topics of interest to membership, a summary of the Live Local Act, Federal single audit updates, GASB LIBOR update, GASB surveys, and State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) regulations, and finally responded to the GASB Capital Assets Exposure Draft. In addition, the Committee prepared a summary of 2023 and 2024 Legislative Session bills which could significantly impact local government financial reporting or compliance responsibilities. This summary will be prepared each year as the Committee works to keep government finance practitioners informed on developments in Tallahassee. Derek, thank you for your leadership on the 2023-2024 Technical and Legislative Resources Committee and thank you to the committee members for their service.

