



FGFOA NEWSLETTER September 23, 2020

FGFOA President

2020 - 2021
FGFOA President
Jamie Roberson



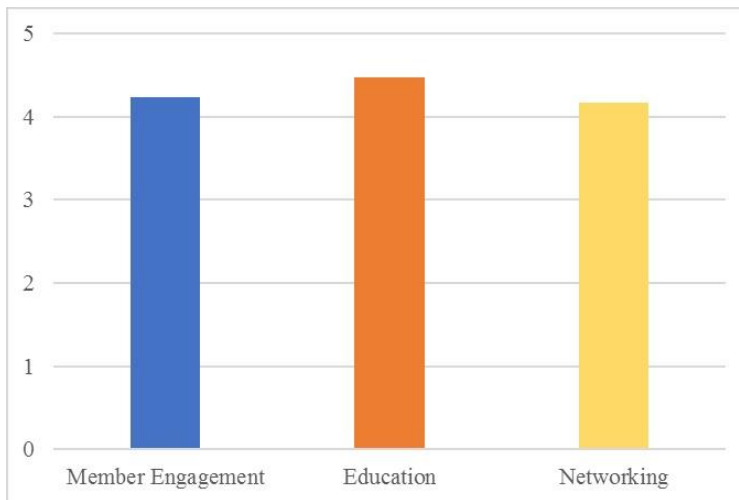
Hello FGFOA Members! Thank you again for allowing me to serve you as your FGFOA President! This year is already off to a great start even with the COVID-19 Pandemic affecting us all! We as a board have been required to be flexible and adaptable in this new normal.

During Strategic Planning, the Board of Directors decided to initiate a Member Feedback Survey in an effort to obtain metrics from FGFOA members on engagement, preferences for programming, and overall satisfaction with the FGFOA and its offerings. I am happy to report that we had over 250 responses and they are already aligning with our strategic plan! The survey was conducted in two cycles ending on June 23 and July 28. The data obtained from members has been compiled and was presented to the Board of Directors by Frank DiPaolo and John McKinney on August 28, 2020. The survey results are presented below:

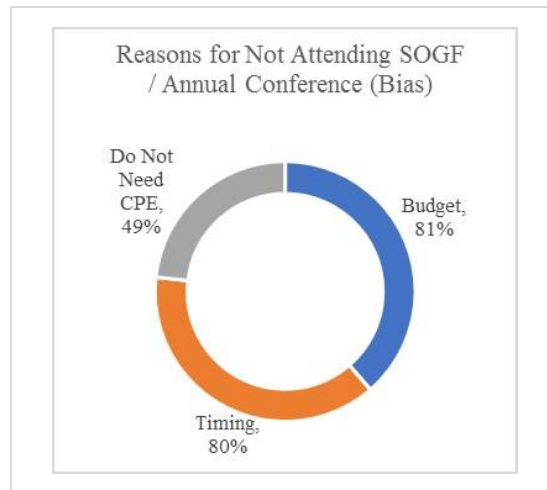
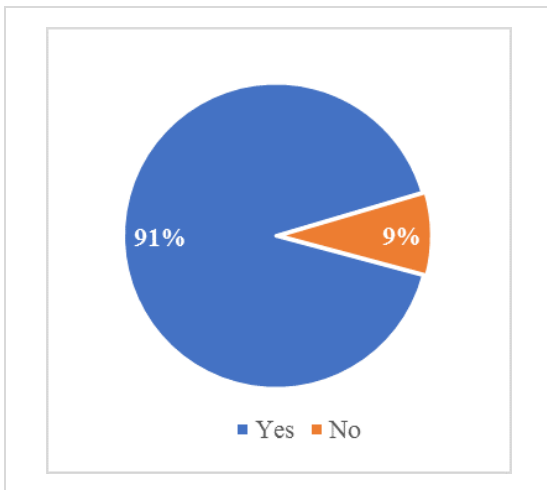
1. Overall how satisfied are you with the FGFOA?

Response: 9.1 / 10

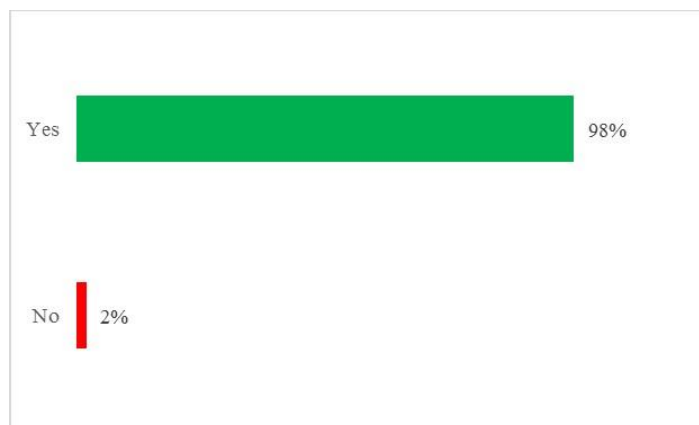
2. Do you feel the FGFOA meets your needs and expectations for the following:



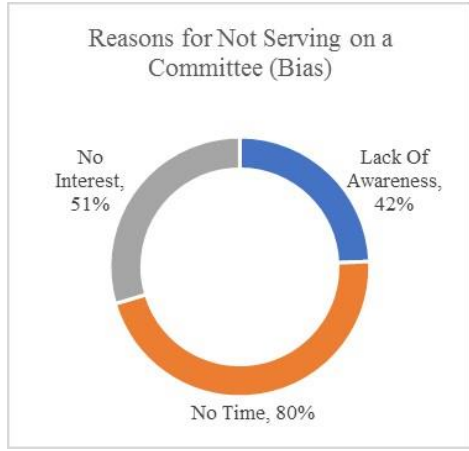
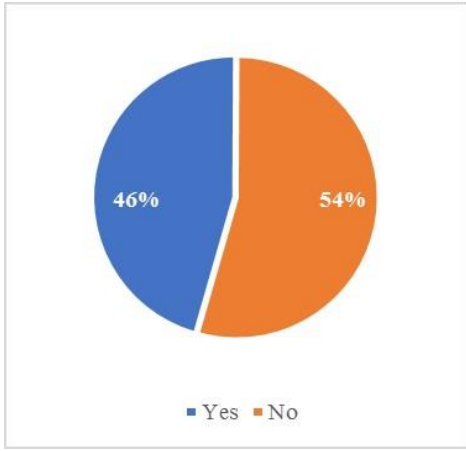
3. Have you ever attended the Annual Conference and/or School of Governmental Finance?



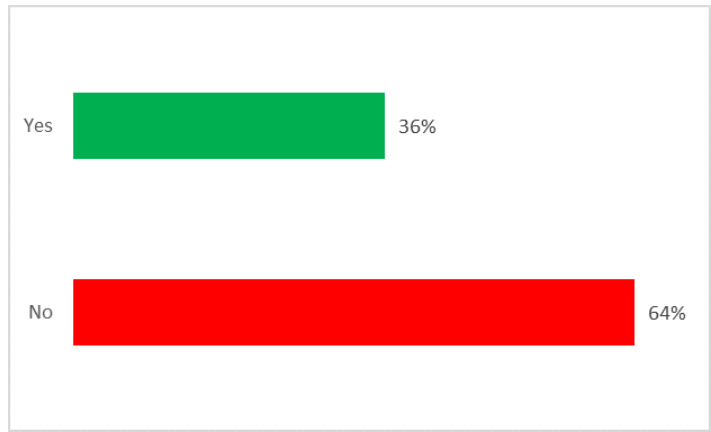
4. Do you feel these sessions add to the FGFOA's overall value proposition?



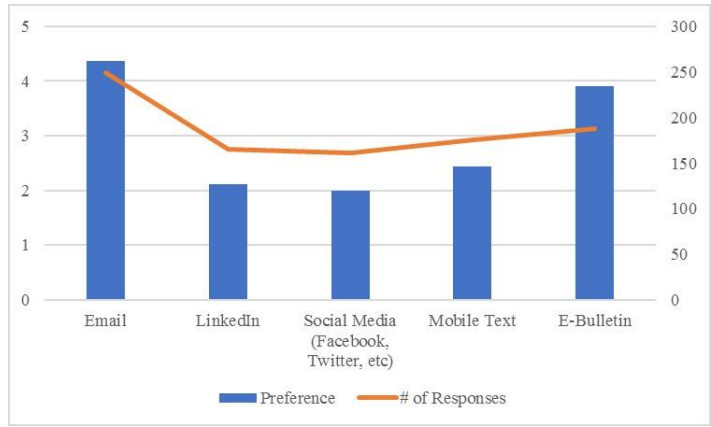
5. Have you ever served on a committee?



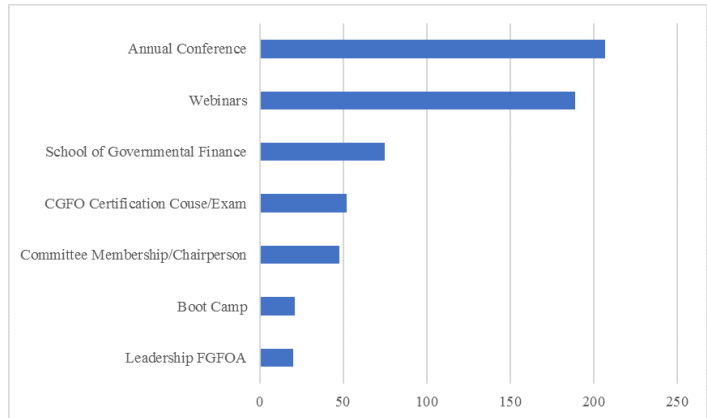
6. Would you be willing to serve on a membership engagement workgroup to assist the FGFOA in tailoring its offerings to current prospective member needs?



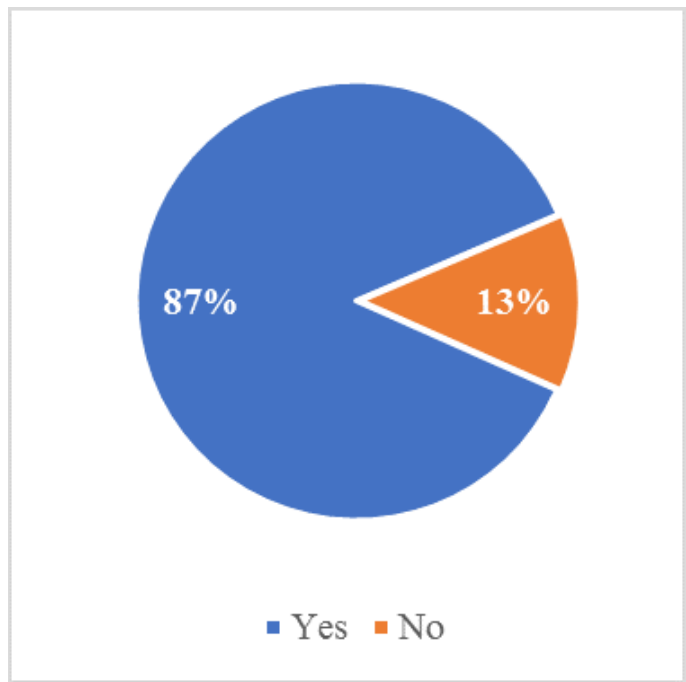
7. Please indicate your preferred methods of contact by the FGFOA:



8. Please indicate which of the following you have participated in during the past 3 years:



9. Are you a member of a local chapter?



* 100% of those who responded "No" indicated they have been on a local chapter in the past three years.

FGFOA President Elect

2020 - 2021
FGFOA President Elect
Shannon Ramsey -Chessman



Hello members! Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your FGFOA President Elect.

One of the privileges of being President Elect is serving as the liaison between the FGFOA Board of Directors and the fifteen (15) local chapters that support our members throughout the state. Each quarter, the local chapter presidents participate in a statewide call to share information regarding:

1. Local and statewide educational and networking opportunities;
2. Legislative issues;
3. Issues/challenges facing each chapter;
4. Highlights of local chapter accomplishments.

During our most recent call on August 19th, our discussion focused on the challenges many chapters are experiencing in trying to provide virtual networking/training to its members. The FGFOA Board of Directors will be exploring a number of options to assist local chapters in their efforts. Additional information about these opportunities will be available soon.

For more information about each local chapter, please visit the FGFOA website at <http://www.fgfoa.org/local-chapters>. If you're not current a member of a local chapter, I would highly recommend you consider joining!

If you have any comments or suggestions to share for our next local chapter president call, please feel free to contact me or your local chapter president. Remember, each one of us can make a difference. Together we can make a change!

FGFOA Secretary - Treasurer

2020 - 2021
FGFOA Secretary - Treasurer
Jonathan McKinney



I am excited to be your FGFOA Secretary - Treasurer for 2020-2021. This is going to be a great year! As you can see from this newsletter, our Board and Committee Chairs have been busy planning for this upcoming year. It will only be a success because of everyone's involvement and ideas.

If you've never served on an FGFOA Committee, or it's been awhile, I want to take this opportunity to invite you to join a committee this year. You will participate in planning current events like our upcoming School of Governmental Finance and Annual Conference. You'll also get to network with top professionals in your field and contribute to the future of FGFOA.

[Click here](#) to sign-up to join an FGFOA Committee.

FGFOA COMMITTEE REPORTS

School of Governmental Finance Committee

Chair:
Mark Parks

Board Liaison:
Kelly Strickland



The SOGF Committee has been extremely busy this year. The Committee is responsible for organizing the school, including identifying topics and speakers. The Committee this year has had significant challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the pandemic, the Committee had to evaluate, with the guidance of the Board, the viability of having a live or virtual conference. Since the last installation of the newsletter, the decision has been made to change from a standard in person school to a 100% virtual school.

Sessions will be held for three weeks in the afternoons 2-3 days per week much like the Virtual Education Annual Conference. There will be two sessions in each time slot and 28 sessions in total. The School will follow the format of a live school, with the basic sessions being held from October 20th through October 28th. The advanced/intermediate sessions will start at the conclusion of the basic sessions on October 28th through November 5th. There is a great lineup of sessions and we are excited to have the opportunity to continue with the School in these challenging times.

2020 School of Governmental Finance

October 20 - November 5, 2020

	Basic	Intermediate	Full Week
Active Member	\$100	\$100	\$150
Associate Member	\$150	\$150	\$250
Non-Member	\$200	\$200	\$350

Special thanks to all the School of Government Finance Committee Members who take time to volunteer to uphold the standards of the FGFOA.

More information will be sent later on this week.

CGFO Certification Committee

Chair:
Matt Misco

Board Liaison:
Olga Rabel



The CGFO Certification Committee has **tentatively scheduled fall exams to take place on Friday, November 13th**. Exams will follow the traditional spring structure, with CGFO's proctoring at a variety of locations throughout the state. Efforts to secure exam locations are currently underway, however the necessity of maintaining social distancing may result in limited availability. Additional details on exact locations, safety procedures, and maximum number of applicants will be released as soon as they are available.

Additionally, the Committee has received approval to extend the period by which all five exams must be passed from five years to six. This will only apply to those who have already begun the testing process.

Review sessions will be held via webinar starting in mid/late October. Anyone who paid for review sessions in the spring will be allowed to attend without charge due to the exam cancellation. These will be scheduled around the virtual School of Government Finance sessions and therefore will most likely be held on Wednesdays and Fridays. The final schedule will be released once a full slate of instructors has been determined.

Conference Host Committee

Chair:
Sharon Almeida

Board Liaison:
Nicole Gasparri



The Conference Host Committee has started planning for all the fun activities for the 2021 Annual Conference in Boca Raton. The committee is currently working on 2 possible venue options for the Tuesday Night Event, one is an indoor option and the other is an outdoor option. No matter which option is chosen, we are confident that everyone will have a Great Time!! Check out the next newsletter for more updates!!

Conference Program Committee

Chair:
Nicole Jovanovski

Board Liaison:
Frank DiPaolo



A committee conference call was held on Friday, August 7th to discuss the committee's role in developing the 2021 Annual Conference program, high-level deadlines and next steps.

Committee members were asked to consider their preference on sub-committee participation, and government practitioners were asked to consider a role as sub-committee chair. At this point, the Committee is planning for an in-person conference.

By mid to late-September a draft list of sessions will be compiled in preparation for the October Board meeting. Session topics that were developed but not held during last year's Virtual Conference will be provided to the sub-committees for consideration. Feedback on desired session topics contained in the member survey will also be provided to the sub-committees.

Education and Webinar Committee

Chair:
Rebecca Schnirman

Board Liaison:
Bryan Cahen



The Education & Webinar Committee held its first virtual meeting on July 7, 2020. During that meeting, the committee received a brief orientation and discussed topics for the upcoming year. Through e-mail correspondence the committee was able to finalize the webinar topics.

The committee is excited to present our members with even more opportunities for CPEs. Beginning in November we are working towards presenting two webinars a month (with the exception of May, October, and December) so that we may include some additional topics such as leadership, payroll, procurement, etc. Below is list of approved webinar topics, which will be updated very soon to include nine additional webinars. Be on the lookout for an e-mail inviting you to our next webinar to be held in September.

Below is a list of upcoming webinars. A full schedule for 2020-2021 is listed on the webinar page of our website. [Click here to view the full schedule.](#)

Webinar Schedule

10/15/2020	Impact of COVID-19 (Pandemic) on Financial Reporting
11/12/2020	Best Practices for Remote Working in a Government Environment
11/19/2020	Economic Update
12/17/2020	State of Florida – Revenue Department Update

Legislative Committee

Chair:
Stephen Timberlake

Board Liaison:
Rip Colvin



With a later Legislative Session this upcoming year the Legislative Committee will have a longer period of little activity, depending on the pandemic's impact on the economy.

To wrap up the 2020 Legislative Session, the state budget was approved on June 29th. Governor DeSantis used his veto power to trim \$1 billion from the State's budget. The cuts maybe enough to avoid calling the Legislature back to balance the budget prior to the election, but there are whispers that a Special Session will occur shortly after the Legislature holds its Organizational Session in mid-November.

Key Session Dates for 2021:

- August 1, 2020 – Deadline for filing claim bills
- November 17, 2020 – Organizational Session
- March 2, 2021 – Regular Session convenes - 12:00 noon, deadline for filing bills for introduction
- April 17, 2021 – Motion to reconsider made and considered the same day. All bills are immediately certified.
- April 20, 2021 50th day – last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings
- April 30, 2021 60th day – last day of Regular Session

The Office of Economic & Demographic Research's Monthly Revenue Report continues to show the impact of the Pandemic on the State as a whole, with June's report reflecting sales tax revenue off by 20.5% of last year. This was an improvement from the 37.4% loss shown in May. Hope springs eternal! A link to the June report is found here:

<http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/revenues/reports/monthly-revenuereport/index.cfm>

Meetings will be scheduled with Legislative staff in the coming months to share our interest in engaging in the process and serving as an invaluable resource in the development of legislation and analyses.

Member & Leadership Development Committee

Chair:
Lorrie Simmons

Board Liaison:
Melissa Burns



The membership and Leadership Development Committee has two main items that we will be focusing on:

1. Mentoring Program
2. Diversity and Membership Engagement.

The Mentoring Program is an important platform to grooming and providing support to emerging leaders. The committee would like to provide more structure to the program, while also facilitating a place for the mentor and mentee to meet and share information. We are developing a schedule and format to facilitate meet ups virtually using Microsoft Teams or Zoom.

A calendar will be developed for the mentor and mentee to meet at minimum once a quarter using one of the virtual formats facilitated by a committee member. The facilitator for the committee will provide introductions and a “Leadership” topic of discussion that will help guide the initial conversation. Leadership resources will come from Leadership books and resources gathered by the committee.

During the virtual meeting each pair will then have time in their own separate groups to discuss the leadership topics and other pertinent topics of interest. This format allows for accountability for both the mentor and mentee. It also gives topics for discussion in the event a mentor or mentee is struggling or uncomfortable starting their initial conversations. New mentors will also have access to resources and material provided by the committee that can assist them in guiding their mentee.

[Click here if you'd like to apply to be a mentor](#)

[Click if you'd like to apply to be a mentee](#)

Diversity and membership engagement are 2 of the goals of the committee for the upcoming year. Our committee has developed a strategy to begin engaging our members and diversifying our overall membership. A subcommittee will poll members and develop a list of organizations that our FGFOA membership is a part of or serving as Board Members. From this list we would like to begin inviting these organizations to participate in FGFOA events, join FGFOA as associates or members (if eligible), and participate in Webinars. This will give the FGFOA brand more exposure, recognition, and opportunities for joint ventures/partnerships in the future with other Professional Organizations.

Technical Resources Committee

Chair:
Ryan Bernal

Board Liaison:
Bill Spinelli



Below are a few of the accomplishments the Technical Resources Committee has been able to achieve recently.

- Continuing to work on updating the *Basic Government Resource Manual*. The draft is projected to be completed in early October.
- Continuing to monitor the landscape of government finance for changes to bring the members' attention:

1. [IRS Notice 2020-65 Employee Payroll Tax Deferral](#): Is optional for employers per the IRS hotline voicemail recording

2. [IRS Notice 2020-65 Employee Payroll Tax Deferral](#): Is optional for employers per the IRS hotline voicemail recording

- Have worked with Jill Walker to create and disseminate three e-bulletins regarding a number of authoritative topics and updates.
- Responding to technical inquiries and request of financial information
- Monitoring the Listserve activity and responding to unanswered questions. We strongly encourage members to continue to utilize it. The more engagement and discussion that occurs, then the more value it adds as an informational resource for everyone!
- Preparing draft responses to any Government Accounting Standards Board and other regulatory entities' invitations to comment:

1. Prepared and submitted responses to the Florida Auditor General for their New Draft Rules - Chapter 10.550

2. Subcommittees began their research to draft responses to the GASB's invitation to comment on [Financial Reporting Model Improvements \(Comment Deadline: February 26, 2021\)](#), [Recognition of Elements of Financial Statements \(Comment Deadline: February 26, 2-021\)](#), and [Revenue and Expense Recognition \(Comment Deadline: February 26, 2021\)](#)

UPCOMING DATES

School of Governmental Finance - Virtual Education

October 20 - November 5

[Click here to view the SOGF page and more details about this event.](#)

Future Webinars

10/15/2020 - Impact of COVID-19 (Pandemic) on Financial Reporting

11/12/2020 - Best Practices for Remote Working in a Government Environment

11/19/2020 - Economic Update

[Click here to view a full list of upcoming webinars.](#)

CGFO Testing Date

Friday, November 13, 2020

[Click here for more information on the CGFO program.](#)

