



## FGFOA NEWSLETTER July 03, 2020

---

### FGFOA President

2020 - 2021  
FGFOA  
President  
Jamie Roberson



FGFOA Members thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President!

The FGFOA Board and I are collaborating to ensure that the next year is amazing no matter what the landscape ahead of us looks like! Rest assured that we are committed to providing the members with education, networking, leadership and information dissemination even if it requires us to think outside the box.

The new FGFOA Board and I held strategic planning meetings the last two Fridays in May and we created some goals for the upcoming year. The building blocks that we left with were:

- professional and personal growth
- member engagement
- and adapting and changing how the FGFOA traditionally conducts business in a rapidly changing environment.

On June 19, 2020 we hosted our first virtual Annual Business meeting and it was a great success. There is a link below for you to hear the speech that I delivered during the Annual Business meeting that will give you a little more insight about the upcoming year.

Thank you to Florida League of Cities Staff who are now in the movie business as a production crew!

Lastly, we would normally hold the first FGFOA Board meeting of the new year during the week of the Annual Conference. But since we were working in a virtual environment, we held our meeting through Microsoft Teams on June 24, 2020. At this meeting we approved the 2020-2021 FGFOA Budget and started planning for a great year.

Your FGFOA Board and I are committed to you the members. Each one of us can make a difference. Together we can make a change!

[Click Here to Listen to Jamie's Acceptance Speech](#)

---

## FGFOA COMMITTEE REPORTS

---

### CGFO Certification Committee

**Chair:**  
**Matt Misco**

**Board Liaison:**  
**Olga Rabel**



The FGFOA Certification Committee has experienced an eventful year and anticipates that continuing.

In 2019, the University of Georgia completed a rewrite of each of the 5 parts of the Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) exam. The October exams at the School of Government Finance were comprised of half of the new test bank and prior to their cancellation the spring exam would have included the remainder.

Committee members will continue to review and update the exam as well as the new study guide. Thank you to all of the Committee members who participated in this process.

The next set of exams and review sessions are currently scheduled as part of the School of Government Finance in October 2020 at the Luminary Hotel in Fort Myers. Given the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, the Certification Committee will explore other testing options should the need arise. Any changes would be communicated to FGFOA members upon approval by the Board. For information concerning the CGFO Program, please visit [http://fgfoa.org/Training\\_Education/cgfo](http://fgfoa.org/Training_Education/cgfo).

A further goal of the Committee will be to expand the pool of instructors and moderators for exam review sessions. There have been an incredible group of volunteers who have stepped up time and time again to ensure that we are able to provide these sessions in the spring and fall. Rather than continually relying on the same members, welcoming new volunteers will allow for the continued success of the CGFO Program going forward.

Thank you to everyone who has previously worked on the Committee and for those who have already volunteered for this upcoming year. If any other CGFO's are interested in joining, please contact Karen Pastula at [kpastula@fcities.com](mailto:kpastula@fcities.com).

## Conference Host Committee

**Chair:**  
**Sharon Almeida**

**Board Liaison:**  
**Nicole Gasparri**



The Conference Host Committee is excited to start planning all the fun activities for the 2021 Annual Conference at the Boca Raton Resort. We have scheduled our first committee meeting for the week of July 6<sup>th</sup> and we will be focusing on the locations for the President's Reception and the Tuesday Night Event. Stay tuned for more exciting news!!

## Conference Program Committee

**Chair:**  
**Nicole**  
**Jovanovski**

**Board Liaison:**  
**Frank DiPaolo**



With the conclusion of the Virtual Conference just behind us, we are focused forward and preparing for the 2021 Annual Conference at the Boca Raton Resort. We are busy planning our first committee meeting which will be held in the coming weeks.

## Education and Webinar Committee

**Chair:**  
**Rebecca**  
**Schnirman**

**Board Liaison:**  
**Bryan Cahen**



The Education & Webinar Committee is happy to report that our revised policy and procedures manual was unanimously approved by the FGFOA Board at their June 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Changes to the manual include updates to reflect the current practices of the committee including an increase to number of webinars (one webinar will be held at a minimum each month) and to clarify the duties of the Chair/Co-Chair and coordinators. The committee would like to thank the Board for their approval of these changes.

Below is a list of our webinars from April-June and the number of attendees. The last several webinars were very well attended, with the exception of the June Webinar. The committee is researching on whether or not it was the topic or timing of the webinar as we usually average at least 300 attendees per webinar. All webinars earn TB CPE credit.

04/09/20

Families First Coronavirus Response Act - Attendees 800

04/16/20

Understanding the Property Tax Assessment Process in Florida - Attendees 701

05/21/20

Budget Preparation and Communicating Budget to Elected Officials - Attendees 488

06/18/20

Florida Public Records and the Sunshine Law - Attendees 178

Please be on the lookout for the announcement for our upcoming webinars. The Education & Webinar committee is looking forward to working with its committee members to bring diverse online education opportunities to our membership. This year the committee will focus on presenting topics that haven't been included past, such as tax topics and other exciting offerings.

Be sure to mark your calendars as webinars are currently scheduled for the third Thursday of the Month from 2:00 pm-3:40 pm. We look forward to your participation!

## Legislative Committee

**Chair:**  
**Stephen**  
**Timberlake**

**Board Liaison:**  
**Rip Colvin**



The Legislative Committee, again led by Stephen Timberlake along with twelve colleagues, will look to interface with the Legislature in the upcoming year. President Jamie Roberson, Committee Chair Stephen Timberlake, and FGFOA Board Liaison Rip Colvin, plan to meet with staff in the House and Senate to share our vision of partnership and where we stand ready to serve as a valued resource as they craft and review legislation during the 2021 Legislative Session. The process will start with the Legislature getting organized in November, shortly after the elections, with committee weeks following as we build up to Session starting March 2, 2021.

For the first time, the Legislative Committee will work with our Technical Resources Committee to leverage our assets to ensure we are giving the Legislature our very best product.

As the FGFOA's 2020-2021 year has just begun, President Roberson and Chair Timberlake welcome more of our 3,000 members to sign up and learn how more about the Legislative Committee and the legislative process. Seize the moment!

## Member & Leadership Development Committee



**Chair:**  
**Lorrie Simmons**

**Board Liaison:**  
**Melissa Burns**



Member and Leadership Development Committee seeks to initiate and promote diverse membership in the organization to ensure the strength and viability of the FGFOA by promoting membership to government finance professionals, retirees and potential associate members. This upcoming year the Member & Leadership Development Committee will embark on an exciting journey to:

- Increase membership engagement
- Reboot the Emerging Leaders Program
- Launch a new format for the Mentoring Program
- Develop a Talent Management Program

All members are welcome to be a part of this committee. This a great opportunity for those who are graduates of Leadership Class I – IV to get engaged with FGFOA and share the additional skills gained and experiences learned with other members of the FGFOA.

## **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 SOGF, including identifying topics and speakers, as well as hosting social events after hours. The Committee this year has had significant challenges because of the pandemic COVID-19. Because of the pandemic, the Committee had to evaluate, with the guidance of the Board, the viability of having a live or virtual conference. At the Board's recommendation, the Committee is planning to host a normal in person school at the Luminary Hotel in Fort Meyers, October 18 – 23, 2020.

Because of the challenge of the pandemic, the committee has asked all the speakers if they can present virtually if it becomes

necessary. Courses and speakers have been identified and will be forwarded to the Board for approval.

Also due to the pandemic, the FGFOA Annual Conference was held virtually. Although the virtual conference was very successful, it was decided to defer the recognition for the Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient and the new CGFOs. The recognition will be held at SOGF on Tuesday night at a special social event.

Thanks to all the members of the CGFO Committee who take time to volunteer to uphold the standards of the FGFOA. It has been a very busy year! And as also, thanks to our FGFOA Board Liaison – Kelly Strickland, and Florida League of Cities, Karen Pastula for all your help. You are the Best!

## Technical Resources Committee

**Chair:**  
**Ryan Bernal**

**Board Liaison:**  
**Bill Spinelli**



The Technical Resources Committee will be:

- Prioritizing an update to the *Basic Government Resource Manual*
- Continuing to monitor the landscape of government finance for changes to bring to the members' attention
- Responding to technical inquiries and request of financial information
- Preparing draft responses to any Government Accounting Standards Board (or other regulatory body's) invitations to comment.

We would like to remind members to take advantage of the FGFOA List Serve for answers to technical questions.

---

## UPCOMING DATES

07/16/20 Monthly Webinar - Topic is to be determined

08/28/20 FGFOA Board Meeting @ FLC Orlando Office

10/18 - 10/23/20 School of Governmental Finance @ The Luminary Hotel in Fort Myers

---

