



FGFOA NEWSLETTER November 9, 2020

FGFOA President

**2020 - 2021
FGFOA President
Jamie Roberson**



Hello FGFOA Members! Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your FGFOA President! As you read through our newsletter you will see that your FGFOA Board and Committee chairs are committed to ensuring that this year is great no matter what challenges we face as the COVID-19 Pandemic has required us to be flexible and adaptable in this new normal. We are hitting the ground running! In an effort to become more flexible we are working to offer as much training and engagement in the virtual environment as possible.

The virtual School of Government Finance started on October 20th and concluded on November 5th with our highest registration count ever! We had 349 attendees participate. This was 336 regular members, 4 associate members and 9 non-members. We have also added a second webinar to the schedule per month to give more opportunities for CPEs.

We have some exciting changes upcoming for the FGFOA Mentoring Program so look forward to the application soon! I would love to challenge you to participate as Mentee or a Mentor. The opportunity is so rewarding for both participants.

Although the outbreak of COVID-19 has severely limited our in-person educational events this year, the FGFOA is committed to moving forward with plans for an in-person annual conference in 2021. We will be opening registration very early in January 2021!

Mark your calendar for May 22-26, 2021. The FGFOA Annual Conference will be held at the Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood. Exhibitor information will be sent to you in January 2021. Note: The 2021 FGFOA Annual Conference was originally scheduled to take place at the Boca Raton Resort and Spa. However, due to the hotel's accelerated renovation schedule, the hotel is unable to host the 2021 conference.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2021 FGFOA Annual Conference.

Thank you for your continued support of the FGFOA and our mission to provide Education, Networking, Leadership and Information to Florida's 3,300 local government finance professionals!

FGFOA President Elect

**2020 - 2021
FGFOA President Elect
Shannon Ramsey -Chessman**



Hello members! I hope each of you is well and I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Now more than ever, digitizing our workplace and even our personal lives is increasingly important. That goes for the FGFOA and our local chapter partners as well.

In that spirit, the FGFOA has purchased a product called Wild Apricot for use by our local chapters. Wild Apricot allows chapters to digitally manage their member database, including contact information, and chapter events. The days of tracking members via spreadsheets and/or back and forth emails is gone!

Currently, twelve (12) of our fifteen (15) local chapters are setup and using the system. For those of you that are local chapter members, we hope that Wild Apricot has minimized the effort for you as well.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank the League of Cities staff especially Jill Walker and also Jason Loschiavo for their hard work in assisting chapters with the implementation of Wild Apricot.

"Great things in business are never done by one person. They're done by a team of people".

I look forward to sharing more FGFOA/Local Chapter partnership success stories 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



The Quarterly Financial Statements as of June 30, 2020 have been released. They were presented and approved at the October 28, 2020 Board Meeting. [Click here](#) to view these financial statements.

As we all know, 2020 has been an interesting year for all and the FGFOA was no exception. We saw an increase in webinars and virtual conferences which brought much needed training and CPEs to our membership. Due to being able to adjust the way we do business, we have been able to maneuver through this new reality. With all of these changes we saw our revenues come in at \$613,760 under budget primarily due to the annual in person conference being cancelled. However, the cost to hold the conference virtually and other events being cancelled resulted in our expenditures coming in \$787,440 under budget. Our net assets came in at \$173,680 over budget to \$405,795. This was very good news for our Association.

Your FGFOA Board is discussing new ways by which to give back a portion of these net assets to the membership and modify future events. This is an exciting time! So stayed tuned to your Presidents upcoming messages for new information.

FGFOA COMMITTEE REPORTS

School of Governmental Finance Committee

Chair:
Mark Parks

Board Liaison:
Kelly Strickland



The Committee worked with the Board and staff to complete the scheduling of the 2020 School and identified speakers for all sessions. The sessions started on October 20th and ended on November 5th. The courses took place in the afternoon from 1 pm to 4:45 pm on seven different afternoons. Each afternoon featured four courses, two for 1.5 hours of credit and two for 1 credit hour. A participant who attended the entire school could get a total of 17.5 hours of CPE.

Based on the 11/2/2020 registration report, we had 348 people who registered for the SOGF for 2020 compared to 234 in 2019. The sessions went well, and the school was a success.

Typically, the SOGF Committee has an annual meeting at the end of the School to debrief and to begin planning for the next year. To keep with the tradition, the Committee met November 5th. The Committee did a SWOT analysis of the School and identified many positives, most notably the quality of the speakers and the great partnership with the League of Cities.

CGFO Certification Committee

Chair:
Matt Misco

Board Liaison:
Olga Rabel



The CGFO Certification Committee has scheduled fall exams to take place on Friday, November 13th. Review sessions are currently underway, however recorded versions are available for anyone who was unable to attend. It is anticipated that the next set of exams will occur in the spring and additional details regarding dates and locations will be made available at that time.

At the October 28, 2020 Board of Director's meeting the following determinations regarding CGFO Renewals were made:

For those with a 6/30/2020 renewal deadline:

- The previously established extension to 12/31/2020 for those who needed additional time to fulfill CPE requirements remains in effect.
- For those who did not require the full extension, any CPE hours earned between 7/1/2020 and 12/31/2020 can be used toward the next renewal with the understanding that hours cannot be used for multiple renewal periods.
- The next renewal deadline will remain as 6/30/2022.

For those with a 6/30/2021 renewal deadline:

- The deadline has been extended to 12/31/2021 to allow for additional time to earn CPE.
 - Any CPE hours earned between 7/1/2021 and 12/31/2021 that are not needed for the current renewal can be used in the next.
 - The next renewal deadline will remain as 6/30/2023.
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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. We began planning the Tuesday Night event near the Boca Raton Resort however due to hotel constraints, the Annual Conference was moved to the Diplomat in Hollywood. With these changes, the committee will be working on a new location for the events in the coming weeks. Check out the next newsletter for more updates!!

Conference Program Committee

Chair:
Nicole Jovanovski

Board Liaison:
Frank DiPaolo



The Conference Program Committee presented a proposed 2020 Annual Conference program including a tentative list of topics, session titles and speakers. The Committee will continue to further develop session descriptions and identify speakers in preparation for final presentation to the Board.

Education and Webinar Committee

Chair:
Rebecca Schnirman

Board Liaison:
Bryan Cahen



The committee is excited to announce that we have added additional webinars to the schedule this year. We will be scheduling two webinars a month, to be held on the third and fourth Thursday of each month (with the exception of October and December). Please be sure to visit our website at http://www.fgfoa.org/Training_Education/webinars for the most up to date schedule. You can also view previous webinars and download presentation materials.

Our most recent webinar, the Impact of COVID-19 on Financial Reporting, was held on November 12, 2020 and is one of two webinars that will be free to local chapter members that are not currently FGFOA members. We had over 600 attendees for this great presentation. Be on the lookout for an announcement for our next webinar.

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.

The Committee's first meeting will occur in early December.

Key Session Dates for 2021:

- 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 August's report reflecting sales tax revenue off by 5.3% of last year. A link to the August 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 next month 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



FGFOA Mentoring Program

Are You Looking for Career and Leadership Development Assistance?

The FGFOA's Mentoring Program formerly known as the "Coaching Program" is a great way to propel your professional career to the next level! Participants are paired with an experienced government finance professional whom they can communicate with in order to discuss career goals, seek advice, and get support along their path to a successful career!

The *newly* redesigned program will accommodate four scheduled virtual meetings for each Mentor & Mentee for 2020-2021 Program Year. In these pre-scheduled sessions, four Career and Leadership Topics will guide your conversations:

- *Careers in Government Finance and Finding Your Place*
- *Work/Life Balance and Sustaining It in Your Career*
- *What's the Right Certification? What are the education and CPE Requirements?*
- *Creating Connections, Maintaining Communication, and Networking*

How do you become a Mentor or Mentee?

- Read the FGFOA [Mentoring Program Agreement](#)
- Complete the [Mentor](#) or [Mentee](#) Application

The FGFOA Mentor Program will be accepting applications through November 30, 2020.

[Click here](#) to read the FGFOA Member and Leadership Development Policy and Procedure Manual updated October, 2020.

Technical Resources Committee

Chair:
Ryan Bernal

Board Liaison:
Bill Spinelli



- Continued updating the *Basic Government Resource Manual*. The draft is projected to be completed in early December 2020.
- Continued to monitor the landscape of government finance for changes to bring to the members' attention:
- Have worked with Jill Walker and the League to create and disseminate several e-bulletins regarding a number of authoritative topics and updates:
 1. Department of Financial Services FY20 notice of legislative changes to financial reporting requirements for impact fees (F.S. 163.31801).
 2. Department of Revenue's updated official county and municipal revenue estimates.
 3. Internal Revenue Services update for employer payroll tax deferrals.
 4. Florida Auditor General's updated Auditor Selection and Auditor Selection Committee Guidance.
 5. GASB notices for nonfinancial asset respondent survey and future exposure draft webinars.
 6. Florida Auditor General has finalized their technical guidance of financial audits for local governments including the new requirement of independent audits of certain Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs).
 7. Reminder of Department of Financial Services FY20 notice of legislative changes to financial reporting requirements for impact fees (F.S. 163.31801)
 8. Notice of the Florida Department of Financial Services FY20 and FY21 local government Uniform Accounting System Manuals.
- Continued responding to technical inquiries and request of financial information. Also monitored the Listserve activity and responded to unanswered questions.
- Continued to prepare draft responses to any Government Accounting Standards Board (or other regulatory body's) invitations to comment. The respective subcommittees have tentative due dates of late January 2021 for draft submissions to the Board.
- Assigned subcommittees/ project teams to develop 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 \(Comment Deadline: February 26, 2021\)](#), and [Revenue and Expense Recognition \(Comment Deadline: February 26, 2021\)](#).

UPCOMING DATES

Future Webinars

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 Review and Testing Dates

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

Annual Conference

May 22-26, 2021

Diplomat Resort, Hollywood

